

**TRUST BOARD**  
**26<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	The report presents highlights of recent activities.
<b>BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS</b>	N/a
<b>STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS</b>	The report refers to meetings with external stakeholders.
<b>LINK TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>	Report encompasses reference to all Trust Strategic Objectives.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES</b>	N/a
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	None known.
<b>The Trust Board is asked to:</b>	Receive the report.
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Aileen McLeish, Chairman
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2013
<b>Decision:</b>	To Receive

## Chairman's Report

**Hospital services** The hospitals have remained very busy throughout the summer and into autumn. We are not alone in this with reports of similar pressures across NHS England. Our planning for winter is well under way and is reported on elsewhere in the agenda. This is a major priority for the Trust as it is important we deliver the waiting time target in A&E. Working closely with colleagues in the broader health and social care is key to this. Staffing has been much in the news and we have had some success in recruiting to key posts including the appointment of two Consultant Paediatricians for Emergency Medicine; Dr Ashok Arakihond and Dr Alka Thakur. We had plans to recruit more Consultant Geriatricians but were not successful and are looking for other ways to resource this service.

**Friends and Family Test** The first results from this national initiative were published in August. We were delighted to see that the Trust has achieved one of the highest response rates in the South East. Since the test was introduced in April, the Trust has heard from almost 1800 inpatients and patients using A&E services. We performed well compared with other local Trusts. It is good for colleagues to receive the many positive comments but the feedback also gives us pointers of where we can improve.

**NICU** I spent a morning shadowing Dr Tosin Otunia, one of our Paediatric and Neo-Natal Consultants as he conducted his round of the Neo-Natal Intensive Care unit (NICU) and the Special Baby Unit. It was good to see how well the team worked together and also speak to parents about the care they and their babies are receiving.

I took part in the **24 Hour Hospital Insight project** in August. This was the second time we have undertaken this review which involves intensive observations of all aspects of the hospital services over a 24 hour period, talking to patients and staff and building a picture of how we deliver care to our patients. This time staff observers were joined by Governors and representatives from our local CCG and Healthwatch. A full report on the project will be brought to a future Board meeting.

We are all looking forward to the official opening of the **Ashford Outpatients Department** which follows this Board meeting. This has been a significant project, transforming this busy area of Ashford hospital while maintaining clinics throughout the building work. The transformed space is a revelation being light, airy and welcoming. Feedback from patients and visitors has been very positive. Well done to all the team who have been involved in this project.

**Non-Executive Director** I am pleased to announce that the Council of Governors have approved the appointment of Carolyn Simons as a Non-Executive Director of the Trust. Carolyn has been appointed for three years and will be joining the Board from November 2013, replacing Peter Taylor who is retiring from the Board.

Carolyn has extensive experience of running retail businesses, both in senior executive and non-executive roles, and her focus on customers (patients) shone through. She has had a highly successful career turning around and transforming a number of retail businesses. It was

the view of the interview panel that, of all the short listed candidates, Carolyn's expertise offered the closest match to the skills gaps (marketing, stakeholder management and communications) which the Nominations and Appointments Committee had agreed was the priority to fill.

I am delighted that Carolyn is joining us and look forward to welcoming her to the Board.

Overall we were very pleased with the calibre of applicants for this post. I have been following up with a number of unsuccessful candidates to encourage them to stay in contact with the Trust and consider applying again if other vacancies arise.

**Governors** Our Governors have been active over the last two months. As well as a full Council meeting, we have had a meeting to discuss mortality indices and "never events" with Dr David Fluck, Medical Director and Mick Imrie, Deputy Medical Director; a meeting with our Compliance Manager at the CQC; interviews for the Non-Executive Director position; a meeting of the Nominations and Appointments committee.

The elections for Governors are underway in the majority of public and staff constituencies. An information event for perspective candidates was held on 13 August. Nominations have now closed and we already know that a number of existing and new Governors have been elected unopposed. Elections are going ahead in the public constituencies of Spelthorne and Guildford and Woking and in the staff constituency for Volunteers. We will have a full Council of Governors once the outcome of the elections are known on 25 October. After that there will an opportunity to thank the Governors who have either decided not to stand again or have not been re-elected. I would like to wish all candidates good luck in the forthcoming elections.

## **Staff**

**John Beaumont:** We were all shocked by the news of the untimely death of John Beaumont following an assault during the August bank holiday weekend. John was just 17 and had been working at the Trust as a Porter. His mother Elaine also works in the Trust. Our condolences go to Elaine and the remainder of her family at this difficult time.

**Julie Addison:** we are sorry to say goodbye to Julie, our Volunteers Manager, who has decided to leave the Trust and pursue new career opportunities. Julie has looked after our volunteers for a number of years and was the instigator and driving force behind securing The Queen's Award for Volunteers in 2012. Many of our volunteers and other colleagues joined together to wish Julie all the best at her leaving do on 11 September.

**Mayor of Spelthorne** We were all very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Mayor of Spelthorne, Councillor Isabel Napper. For many years, she has been a strong supporter of our breast cancer services and of Ashford Hospital. Indeed her last official engagement was the opening of the newly refurbished Jasmine Suite at Ashford hospital on 30 July. It was clear she had made a big effort to join us on that occasion but she was determined to be there and to preside over the celebrations. I represented the Trust at Isabel's memorial service on 20 September.

## Other

Visit by **Dr Peter Carter**, General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing. I was delighted to welcome Peter to the Trust. His visit combined a tour of our wards, a “Together we care” gathering of staff and a dinner with senior nursing staff. Peter gave an inspiring speech to staff, many of whom were able to share with Peter aspects of the care we provide patients. It is always good to get an external perspective and Peter particularly commented on the positive atmosphere around the Trust.

**Donations** : Breast consultant Tayo Johnson and I attended a reception at the **Royal Holloway College** to receive a donation of £3,000 which we will put towards buying equipment for our breast cancer services. This was part of funds raised at their annual summer fete and we are grateful that they should give these funds to ASPH. I would also like to thank **Natalie Bowden** whose fund raising efforts culminated in a £5,000 donation to our vascular services. Natalie was inspired to raise these funds as a thank you to our vascular team for saving her mum Wendy's life.

I was delighted to perform the first dig of the foundations for our new **Maternity Led Unit**. Work is now underway for what we believe will be THE place for mothers to have their babies in Surrey.

I attended a meeting of the FTN Chairs and Chief Executives group, and the FTN Quality Working Group. I joined an FTN hosted dinner with Una O'Brien, Permanent Secretary at the Dept. of Health.

Andrew Liles and myself had dinner with Peter Dunt and Nick Mobeley, respectively Chairman and Chief Executive of Royal Surrey County Hospital FT. This was an opportunity to reflect on the progress of our partnership and consider the direction and pace of change.