Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
27th May 2010

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since April 2010
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	Refers to performance in 2009/2010. Refers to progressing the Foundation Trust Application which is an element on the BAF
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Refers to meetings with external stakeholders
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	N/A
LEGAL ISSUES	N/A
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	21 April 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Foundation Trust application: Our application is still in the Department of Health awaiting final sign off by the Secretary of State. Once this happens we will be able to start discussions with Monitor, the Foundation Trust regulator, and will have a clearer idea of the timetable for the final stages of our application.

Anticipating the next phase the Board spent a day rehearsing our forthcoming Board to Board with Monitor. This gave us an opportunity to reflect on the issues which are likely to arise and think about how we present ourselves. We have also held a Masterclass which informed us about the Monitor's new quality compliance requirements.

We held another of our Members information events, this time covering the area of cardiology. This was attended by some 70 members who came up with a wide range of questions for our cardiology team and showed a great deal of support for the Trust.

In addition, myself and Jane Gear have continued meetings with Stakeholder Governors. So far Professor John Hay and Councillor Jean Pinkerton have been appointed by Surrey University and Spelthorne Borough Council respectively. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome these first two appointments to our nascent Council of Governors.

Recruitment of Non-Executive Directors: Interviews for the vacancies for the two Non-Executive Director positions were held on 11 May. I am pleased to say that we had a number of excellent candidates to interview and, at the time of writing this report, have made appointments subject to acceptable references. I hope to be able to announce our new Non-Executive Directors at the Board meeting.

Pride in Nursing and Midwifery Day: I was delighted to be invited to Chair this Trust event which took place at St Peter's Hospital on 19 May. This was an excellent day. We had presentations covering a range of interesting topics which showed a high level of professionalism across the Trust. Attendees ranged from 1st year students to our most senior nursing staff. There was a good team spirit evident throughout the day. Among the many highlights of the day was the presentation from Graidhne Spoors from out Intensive Care Unit who talked about her experiences in Afghanistan as Captain Spoors in the Camp Bastian Field Hospital. We were all full of admiration for Graidhne and her colleagues. We were also delighted to welcome Colonel Gilbert, Graidhne's commanding officer, who presented the Trust with commemorative picture as a thank you for supporting Graidhne's membership of the TA. Special mention should also go to Natasha Day Sister in the Surgical Dependency Unit at St Peter's who not only gave an excellent talk on the Enhanced Recovery Programme but also who the 1st prize in the poster competition. A big thank you to Vanessa Avlonitis and her team for organising this event.

Stephanie Marks Diabetes Resource Centre: We held the opening event for this new building marking the successful culmination of 7 years of fundraising and planning. The opening was attended by Sir Ian Botham OBE, Patron of the appeal, members of Stephanie's family and representatives from the community who have been so generous in supporting this initiative. It was a very special day, for everyone who has been involved and I would particularly like to thank my predecessor Clive Thompson, our Medical Director Mike Baxter and Stephanie's parents Chris and Sue Marks for having the inspiration and energy to make this resource centre a reality

Annual General Meeting of Friends of St Peter's Hospitals: I was delighted to represent the Trust at this meeting. During 2008/9 the Friends have made donations to the hospital

totalling £275,000. The Trust is very grateful for all the help and support it receives from the Friends. This was a good opportunity to hear views from individual friends and I am pleased to report that they are seeing many improvements, not least a perception of a much more friendly and welcoming atmosphere around the hospital.

Other activities this month:

- The General Election has resulted in many new MPs in the communities we serve as well as returning a number of incumbent MPs. I have written to all our MPs congratulating them on their success and inviting them to visit the hospitals so that we can brief them on the Trust's role in the local community.

- As part of my programme of attending all Board committees to ensure they all operate to a high standard, I attended TEC and IGAC during the month

- I represented the Trust at an event where the Army explained to a Surrey audience its role and how it fulfilled it.

Aileen McLeish
May 2010