Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

TRUST BOARD
27th September 2012

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities in September 2012 including: ▪ Trust secretary ▪ Epsom Hospital ▪ A3 Coach crash ▪ Hospitals' Performance ▪ Governors- Council of Governor meeting and elections ▪ Volunteers ▪ R&D Public Information Day
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	N/A
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Refers to meetings with external stakeholders.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	N/A
LEGAL ISSUES	None known
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report.
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	19th September 2012
Decision:	For Noting

TRUST BOARD
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Chairman's Report

Jane Gear Head of Corporate Affairs
We will be very sorry to lose Jane Gear who retires at the end of this month after a long distinguished career within the NHS. Since joining Ashford and St Peter's nearly 3 years ago, Jane has helped steer us through the changes in governance required to be a Foundation Trust. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors I would like to thank Jane for all she has contributed to the Trust and wish her well for the future.

Epsom Hospital
Details of the work which continues on the takeover of Epsom Hospital are provided in other parts of this meeting's agenda.

Over the last 2 months I have been particularly involved in the proposals for membership of a new, post merger, Council of Governors. This would include members of the public and others from the Epsom area as well staff from Epsom hospital, giving proportionate representation on the Council while not expanding the Council to a size which would be unwieldy. At their meeting earlier this month, our current Council of Governors agreed a proposal which would form the basis of a public consultation this autumn.

I attended the public meeting earlier this month hosted by Epsom Council. Roughly 80 members of the public were in attendance showing a great deal of interest in our plans for Epsom hospital. Overall the mood of the meeting was supportive of our proposals. In particular local MP Chris Grayling gave his public endorsement to the proposed merger.

A3 Coach crash
On the night of 10/11 September St Peter's hospital had an important role to play in the emergency response to the devastating coach crash on the A3 near Hindhead. Our condolences go to the family and friends of the three people who died as well as to those who were injured in the crash and their family and friends. The less seriously injured came to St Peter's hospital. Our staff rose to the occasion and did a magnificent job both in treating the casualties and providing the support everyone needed while they waited to be collected by their relatives. Talking to staff who had been involved in the response, there as a great sense of pride in the way everyone had worked together.

Hospitals' Performance
In the last month the improving performance of the Trust has been recognised by both our principal regulators. The Care Quality Commission has confirmed that the Trust is fully compliant with its Care standards. In addition Monitor have rated the Trust as Green on governance and has given us a Financial Risk Rating of 4. This is a big tribute to all our staff and provides assurance to the public on the quality and sustainability of our services.

It is particularly pleasing to see how well we have been performing on the emergency pathway. This is reported on elsewhere in the agenda. More work is being done in this area to ensure that the Trust processes have the resilience to provide consistently high quality care to all our patients.
As part of the work on the emergency pathway, Directors and senior managers have been meeting with clinical teams to explain what happening and support staff through the changes. I was pleased to join nurse handover sessions on both Falcon and Aspen wards.

Governors
We held a Council of Governors meeting earlier this month. The main items on the agenda included changes to the Constitution to accommodate a takeover of Epsom hospital (see above)

as well as the changes needed to ensure compliance with the Health and Social Care Act. This has heightened importance as this is the first time that our Council of Governors have had a chance to change the Trust's Constitution which governs the way we operate. Final changes to the Constitution will require the agreement of both the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors and will consider the outcome of consultation.

Elections are underway for the constituencies whose Governors' terms of office end on 30 November 2012. These are the public constituencies of Runnymede, Richmond-upon-Thames and Windsor and Maidenhead and the staff constituencies of Allied Healthcare and Medical and Dental. The Notice of Poll will be published on 2 October and we expect to receive the results in the first week of November.

Volunteers
I was delighted to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Dame Sarah Goad who presented our volunteers with The Queen's Award for Volunteering 2012. This was a big honour for our volunteers who do so much to support the Trust, patients and staff. It was wonderful for so many of our volunteers to join us at the celebration at Painshill Park. We also welcomed Jonathan Lord, MP for Woking, and many of our local Mayors. The Lord Lieutenant and our guests had an enjoyable afternoon chatting to volunteers over tea and refreshments.

R&D Public Information Day
The Research and Development Department hosted a Public Information Day on Friday 14th September. Philip Beesley, Non Executive Director, chaired the event which was a great success with more than 60 members of the public attending. This was an excellent opportunity to inform, engage and involve everybody about what we mean by 'clinical trials.' The emphasis was placed upon the variety of research taking place; from neonatal intensive care in the earliest stages of life to cardiology where the Trust has pioneered research on the most up-to-date pacemakers available.

Other
Andrew Liles and I spent a morning with the speech therapist team at St Peter's hospital. We learned a great deal about the outpatient and inpatient services provided by this vital team. I also joined a ward round of the Acute Pain Team. It was a good opportunity to spend time with Sharon Kitcatt, Consultant Nurse who leaves us after 14 years service.

The Mayor of Spelthorne Councillor Robin Sider and I were guests of the Ashford Hospital League of Friends helping them to open their new charity shop within the hospital.

I was also pleased to support our cancer team in the launch of their new cancer information service which provides a web-based, trusted and accessible source of information, used by our staff and available to patients and their families. We were joined by former patient *Green Goddess* Diana Moran who had been supportive as the patient voice during the project.

Andrew Liles and I had meetings with Roberto Tambini and Liz Borthwick from Spelthorne Council; with Councillor Michael Gosling, Surrey County Council Cabinet member for Social Care; and with Idrees Awan Honorary Consultant and Chairman of the Hashim Welfare Hospital.

In addition I attended a meeting of the Foundation Trust Network Quality Group, a meeting of the Southern Chairs' Group and a meeting of the Surrey and Sussex Provider Chairs.

Aileen McLeish
September 2012
Chairman