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

TRUST BOARD
28th April 2011

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since March 2011
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	N/A
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Refers to meetings with external stakeholders
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	None known
LEGAL ISSUES	None known
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report.
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	19th April 2011
Decision:	For Noting

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Health and Social Care Bill

In the last month the Government has announced that they want to pause and consult on the changes outlined in the draft heath and social care bill. It is expected this will delay the changes in structure for at least 3 months. It has already been announced that Strategic Health Authorities will continue until June 2012, 3 months longer than previously envisaged to allow for delays in the commencement of the new NHS Commissioning Board.

Concerns are being raised about the ability of the NHS as a whole to deliver £20bn savings over 5 years while going through one of the biggest restructurings in its history. In addition some of the key areas being debated include :

- A role for other professions to work alongside GPs in commissioning services
- Governance arrangements for the new commissioning consortia
- Will the commissioning consortia to do more than "take account" of the views of their local council's heath and wellbeing boards?
- Concerns about the potential extent of both private sector involvement in providing NHS services and NHS providers earning private income

The Government has promised a proper consultation during this pause, so it is to be expected that there will be some changes to the Bill. In the meantime we intend to continue our active involvement in the North West Surrey Transformation Board working with local GPs, community and social services to construct a sustainable local health economy.

Council of Governors

We have instituted the first of a series of informal meetings between Governors and Andrew Liles and myself. This is an opportunity to discuss developments within the Trust and as well as debate any concerns the Governors may have and is intended to supplement the more formal Council of Governors meetings.

The next meeting of the Council of Governors will be on 18th May at Ashford Hospital and members and the public are welcome to attend. Details will be on the Trust web site.

Appointment of new Vascular Consultant

I chaired the panel which interviewed and appointed a new vascular surgeon to the Trust, a replacement for Martin Thomas who retired after many years of distinguished service. This new appointment is being made jointly with Epsom and St Helier Hospitals NHS Trust, strengthening the clinical links between these our two organisations. I am delighted that we had an impressively strong field of candidates and the successful candidate Mr Tahir Ali has the potential to enable our team to extend our vascular services.

New seating area at St Peter's hospital

On 11 April I welcomed the Mayor of Runnymede and other guests at the opening of a new seating area at the front of St Peter's hospital. . This area has been developed as part of our wider improvement works to improve patient and visitor access and is sited near the new bus-stop which has been moved to be much closer to the main hospital entrance. The new garden and seating area was designed by local garden designer Richard Jackson, with its focal point an impressive sculpture, Lightwaves, by local sculpture artist Duncan Bell. The

sculpture was commissioned by the Trust's Art's Committee and the whole area has been sympathetically designed to give patients, visitors and staff a quiet, contemplative place in which to sit and relax. The opening also received some positive local media coverage

Other Activities in the last month:

I attended the Cardiology spotlight seminar for GPs. I good opportunity to meet GPs and get their feedback on the Trust as well as understand their concerns about the future structure of the NHS

I had separate meetings with Peter Dunt, Chairman of Royal Surrey County Hospital Foundation Trust and with Naaz Coker, Chairman of St Georges NHS Trust

I met with Councillor Lavinia Sealey, Vice Chairman of Surrey County Council

Submitted by: Aileen McLeish 19 April 2011