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

TRUST BOARD
28th April 2011

TITLE	**Chief Executive's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	General overview of issues/developments
BOARD ASSURANCE (RISK)/ IMPLICATIONS	n/a
STAKEHOLDER/ PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Patient survey results demonstrate good improvements in patient care and engagement. Mention of the Government's listening exercise and pause in Health and Social Care Bill.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	n/a
LEGAL ISSUES	n/a
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report
Submitted by:	Andrew Liles, Chief Executive
Date:	19th April 2011
Decision:	For Noting

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Chief Executive's Report

Trust Overview

Looking ahead to 2011/12

We begin 2011/12 in a strong position, having met our key quality, clinical and financial targets for last year - in reality one of the strongest ever performances for Ashford and St Peter's and the year in which we became a Foundation Trust. There is no doubt however that 2011/12 will be one of the toughest years for the NHS with continuing financial pressures and a real cut in income moving forward. That said we have made strong plans for this year to ensure our patients continue to receive safe, high quality treatment in a positive environment and that we continue to drive our strategy forward.

Current hospital situation and Easter plan

The Trust is now beginning to close down some of the additional beds that were opened during the winter, and our focus is on doing this in a safe and sustainable manner whilst maintaining our A&E performance. This means that although the worst of the recent capacity pressures have levelled off, capacity remains tight in places. With the two forthcoming bank holiday weekends, we have also been focussing on ensuring staffing for this period is robust, across our wards and emergency services in particular, and that we are working closely with our partners across North West Surrey to make sure the right contingency plans are in place across the system.

Key News and Developments

Government Listening Exercise

The Trust continues to keep a watchful eye on the latest national develops and in particular on the pause in the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament announced recently. Although it is unlikely that the fundamental principles of the Bill will change, the new 'listening exercise', which was launched by David Cameron at Frimley Park Hospital earlier this month, signals an additional period of consultation on four main themes in the bill.

- The role of choice and competition in improving quality, including the impact of wider competition under Any Qualified Provider.
- How to ensure public accountability and patient involvement in the new system.
- How new arrangements for education and training can support the modernisation process. This workstream will look at the overall strategy for education and training modernisation, building on the consultation that has just closed, which focused more on the structural reforms.
- How advice from across a range of healthcare professions can improve patient care and get more involved in commissioning decisions.

Meanwhile, work on aspects of the reforms that are not part of the listening exercise continues, but some timing will necessarily slip: the National Commissioning board will now not take up its statutory duties until 1 July 2012 and SHAs will continue until then.

End of year Divisional Reviews
The Executive team are currently undertaking the end of year reviews of all our Divisions and major departments. These are detailed sessions where we review in detail the performance over the past six months and agree their business plans for 2011/12.

Patient survey results
On 21st April, the Care Quality Commission will release the results of the 2010 national inpatient survey – a survey of the care received by patients during a stay in hospital last July. Over the last few years Ashford and St Peter's has not scored well in these surveys and two years ago the Trust made a very public pledge to significantly improve patient experience, as measured through such surveys. These latest results – which report on care received last summer – show a significant shift in how patients view their experience here, moving the Trust from the bottom 20% of performers nationally to the middle 60% overall. Statistically this is a significant shift and whilst there is still a lot more work to do, demonstrates the positive improvements that are being made.

As reported in last month's Board report, the Trust will shortly be launching our 'Living our Values' campaign, which will use real patient stories to motivate staff to build on our existing values and behaviours which we hope will help us make that final shift from the middle 60% to the top performing 20% of Trusts nationally.

Infection control
Worthy of note here is the Trust's current and positive position on infection control. Last year (2010/11) we were faced with very tough targets - for MRSA in particular our target was no more than five hospital acquired cases for the whole year. Unfortunately we reported 2 cases in April, 2 in May and 1 in July which meant we had reached that target by last summer. However, our increased vigilance and focus has meant that we did in fact finish the year with no further cases being reported – that translates as an incredible 246 days MRSA free which is a tremendous achievement. The target for this year has been set at no more than 4 hospital acquired cases.

We were also well below target for clostridium difficile - 36 hospital acquired cases against the PCT's target of 67 and a national target of 103.

Meetings and visits

I attended the Trust's monthly Employee Partnership Forum meeting with staff representatives, was on the interview panel for a new Consultant Vascular Surgeon and took part in a general walkabout around the Trust with Chief Nurse Suzanne Rankin. I also took part in a series of regular 6 monthly performance reviews with our Clinical Divisions and other corporate departments.

I took part in several meetings and telephone conferences with NHS Surrey, particularly around our contract negotiations. I attended the North West Surrey Transformation Board meeting and an evening meeting with local GPs at Foxhills. I also had meetings with the Royal Marsden and the South East Coast Ambulance Trust and attended the Surrey Pathology Board meeting.

I also attended a Chief Executive's lunch in London with David Bennett the Chair of Monitor.

Submitted by: Andrew Liles, Chief Executive

Date: 19th April 2011