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

TRUST BOARD
28TH June 2012

TITLE	**Chief Executive's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	General overview of issues/developments ▪ Chairman's Reappointment ▪ Queen's Award for Voluntary Service ▪ Visit by High Sheriff of Surrey ▪ Epsom and St Helier Transaction ▪ Emergency Care Intensive Support Team (ECIST) ▪ Health and Social Care Act 2012 ▪ New Appointments ▪ Meetings and visits
BOARD ASSURANCE (RISK)/ IMPLICATIONS	n/a
STAKEHOLDER/ PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	Announced as preferred bidder for Epsom Hospital.
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:	18th June 2012
Decision:	For Noting

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Chief Executive's Report

Key News and Developments

Chairman's Reappointment

At the last Council of Governors meeting held on 17th May, Governors unanimously agreed the reappointment of the Chairman until 30th September 2015. At the same meeting, reappointments were confirmed for the following three Non-Executive Directors; Philip Beesley, also Deputy Chair of the Board, up until 15th July 2015, Terry Price up until 13th September 2015 and Peter Taylor, also Senior Independent Director, in line with his wishes until 31st October 2013. This will provide an opportunity for a new Non-Executive Director appointment in light of the Epsom transaction.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Earlier this month – on the anniversary of the Diamond Jubilee – we heard that volunteers from Ashford and St Peter's had won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups. This is a really significant national award - particularly so in this Diamond Jubilee year - and is given for 'outstanding achievement to groups of volunteers who regularly devote their time, skills and energy for the benefit of others'.

The Trust currently has over 380 volunteers working across our two hospitals on behalf of our patients and staff, covering a huge variety of work on a day to day basis. And what makes this award particularly special is that our volunteers were nominated by members of the local community, people who have experienced first hand the additional support volunteers are able to give. My personal congratulations to all our volunteers.

Visit by High Sheriff of Surrey

Last week the High Sheriff of Surrey, Mrs Karin Sehmer, came to St Peter's Hospital to visit our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Paediatric wards. The visit was in support of work done by Surrey County Council's Youth Justice Reparation Service who have donated a number of memory boxes (given to bereaved parents in NICU), and handmade toys for children to play with during their stay in hospital. The High Sheriff was impressed with what she saw and very complimentary about our services for families and children.

Epsom and St Helier Transaction

On 1st June, Ashford and St Peter's was announced as the preferred bidder to partner Epsom Hospital to become a larger, three hospital Foundation Trust.

The announcement by the Transaction Board (responsible for overseeing the demerger of Epsom and St Helier hospitals) followed initial approvals by NHS London and NHS South of England with the go-ahead to develop a full business case for creating the new organisation.

Our plans to create a new, larger NHS Foundation Trust will mean significant benefits to patients right across the proposed new catchment area (of around 600,000 people) as well as providing a stable future for Epsom hospital, its current patients and staff. A larger catchment population means we will be able to continue developing more specialist services – such as bariatric and vascular surgery – offering treatments locally in Surrey that previously would only have been provided in the larger London hospitals for example.

Our vision for Epsom, which we have created in partnership with Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, Central Surrey Health and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, will create an innovative approach for the hospital, bringing together a wide range of convenient and sustainable services for the local population on one site. These important partnerships will also mean added benefits to our wider catchment over time.

There is still a huge amount of work to be done between now and the potential 'go-live' date of 1st April 2013, with further regulatory approvals still to be sought from Monitor, our Foundation Trust regulator, and the Co-operation and Competition Commission. However, we are committed to working towards a successful outcome and are very much looking forward to developing our vision and plans further with staff, patients and our wider stakeholders over the next few months

Emergency Care Intensive Support Team (ECIST)
The Trust has sought assistance from the Department of Health's Emergency Care Intensive Support Team to help redesign our emergency care pathway. This is essential if we are to improve the experience of our patients and their clinical outcomes and, as a result, deliver the four hour target in a sustainable way.

The team has been working with our physicians and other clinical staff, supporting them to find the right long-term solutions to ensure our patients receive the very best care in a timely and appropriate way. Part of the solution will be to radically change the way we work, setting clear clinical standards that our patients can expect. These will focus in particular on early senior clinical review throughout the 24 hour period, and a clear clinical plan for each patient. National evidence to support the positive impact of these standards is very clear.

Along with other executive colleagues and clinical staff, I have met with the ECIST team several times over the past couple of months. Although we have more work to do, their experience with other Trusts across the country demonstrates what can be achieved and we have several more sessions planned over the coming weeks. In addition, with advice from ECIST, we have also reviewed our governance arrangements around unplanned care and are re-launching a communications and engagement plan.

Health and Social Care Act 2012
The new Health and Social Care Act will introduce a new governance model for NHS foundation trusts, which means we will need to amend our constitution to ensure that it complies with law and reflects the new governance structure.

The Act has received Royal Assent, but is not yet fully in force with no commencement orders (the date when individual elements of the Act have to start) laid to date. Current advice is that the Department of Health is now considering starting most of the proposals impacting on foundation trusts from April 2013, including the licensing regime and proposals relating to foundation trust boards, directors and governors.

This means that we can start the preparations for constitutional change which will be implemented at the point of commencement, likely to be around April 2013; these changes will be approved by the Board and the Council, not Monitor. To this end the Board and Council of Governors have set up a small working group which will have its first meeting in July.

Monitor will not approve any changes to constitutions to reflect the Health and Social Care Act but we will have to consider the implications caused by the Epsom transaction and ensure these are properly approved, possibly under the Monitor framework.

New Appointments
This month we made the following new consultant appointments:

- Mr Andrew Cruise – ENT (ear, nose, throat)
- Dr Jan Coebergh - Neurology
- Dr Mohammed Mansoor - Neurophysiology

Meetings and visits
I attended the induction of new staff at Ashford Hospital, the Medical Staff Committee and chaired the Ashford and St Peter's Equality and Diversity Steering Group.

Aileen McLeish and I attended a Managers' Team Briefing at Epsom Hospital and I also met with the Chief Executive and Chair of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals.

I attended the Kent Surrey and Sussex Deanery Board meeting in London and was an external assessor for the appointment of a new Chief Executive at Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals.

Philippa Slinger, Chief Executive of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, also visited us.

Nationally I attended the NHS Confederation Conference in Manchester.

Submitted by: Andrew Liles, Chief Executive

Date: 18th June 2012