Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
28th October 2010

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since September 2010
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	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	None known
LEGAL ISSUES	None known
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report.
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	21 October 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

Foundation Trust application

Our journey towards Foundation status continues. Our team have continued to work with the Monitor assessment team and more recently the team from PriceWaterhouseCoopers who are advising Monitor and who will be attending our Board Meeting to give interim feedback. The Trust's Board are now focussing on its meeting with the Monitor Board which takes place on 4 November.

In the meantime, elections to our Council of Governors are underway. As mentioned last month, we have been pleased by the range and numbers of people interested in becoming Governors. The deadline for voting is midday 2 November and we expect to be able to publish the results in the following few days. Plans are already been made for the first two meetings of the nascent Council of Governors. The Board sees it as essential that we give support to this group of people to work together as an effective team so that they are ready to take on their responsibilities when we become a Foundation Trust.

National Situation and Local Health Economy

I am writing this report while we are all digesting the implications of the Chancellor's statement on the Government's spending cuts. While health has been "ring fenced" from the cuts , within the Trust we still have a big challenge to maintain quality while coping with increased numbers of emergency admissions and at a time when our principal commissioner, NHS Surrey, is experiencing difficulties in balancing its budget. We need to make savings so that we can cope with the increasing numbers of patients while our own income is at best level with last year. In addition, we anticipate that the announcements of cuts in local authority funding is going to directly impact on our colleagues in Social Services who play an important role in facilitating the discharge of many of our patients. We are taking more of a lead with our partners in NW Surrey to address the causes of the increased emergency admissions.

South East Coast Health and Social Care Awards

I was delighted to attend this year's regional awards. We had three members of staff short listed for the event, more than any other Trust in the region. All three were exemplars of the values of this Trust. I was delighted to see Dr Gill Britton win *Health Professional of the Year* for her work in leading and developing our Occupational Health Service. Also Lynn English, Chaucer Ward Clerk, who won the *Unsung Hero Award.* Lynn is well known in Ashford hospital and beyond for always going the extra mile for patents and colleagues. Being short listed is a great achievement in itself, so congratulations also go to Maxwell Freer from IT for the recognition of all the work he does to keeping the Trust's IT network going.

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting at the H G Wells Centre in Woking on 30 September. There was a good turn out of some 80 members of the public and staff including a number of the candidates standing in the elections for our Council of Governors. Prior to the meeting taking place, we had a number of stands manned by our staff demonstrating aspects of the work in the Trust. In the meeting itself we were able to give an upbeat view of the Trust having recorded our best performance in recent time. We had many good questions from the public, a reminder of what is important to our patients and that there are a number of areas we need to improve on.

Other

- I had meetings with David Clayton-Smith Chairman of NHS Surrey and also with Mike Harris newly appointed Chairman of SECAmb. These were opportunities to discuss issues and developments which affect our organisations.
- Amanda Mockridge, General Manager in Surgery, took me around the Surgical wards and gave me insight into the improvements she is facilitating within this area of the hospital.
- Along with other members of the Board and many of our Consultants and other staff, I attended the Urology Fundraising Ball at Wentworth Golf Club. This was the culmination of a major fund raising initiative led by one of our Urology Consultants Justin Collins. Justin is to be congratulated on the energy and enthusiasm he has brought to the Golf Marathon which has been running through September and October.
- I gave a lunchtime talk to the Staines & District Probus Club on developments at the Hospital Trust and the broader healthcare economy. This was a good opportunity to talk about the Trust with members of our community. Both explaining what is happening but also getting feedback on people's experiences of the Trust. Feedback has been very positive and I have been warned to expect more invitations.
- I was pleased to chair the panel which appointed Simon Hughes as a new Consultant Anaesthetist to the Trust. Simon has had a wide range of experience in the RAF, most recently working in Afghanistan, as well as holding an Honorary Consultant role at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford. He promises to be an excellent addition to our team.

Submitted by: Aileen McLeish 21 October 2010