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

TRUST BOARD
29th March 2012

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since January 2012 including ▪ Health and Social Care Bill update ▪ Epsom Hospital ▪ Governors ▪ Chaplaincy Team
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:	21st March 2012
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

Health and Social Care Bill

The Health and Social Care bill has now completed its passage through Parliament. Having been given the accolade of the most scrutinised bill in Parliamentary history it has been subjected to a large number of changes which have complicated the future landscape of the NHS. There are concerns that Foundation Trusts and other providers are carrying a substantial proportion of the risk during the period of implementation. In particular, pressure is building within the acute sector which is seeing reducing tariffs and increasing financial penalties on A&E admissions and readmissions, while seeing no evidence of what is happening to the resulting savings which were supposed to be reinvested to reduce demand. It is now up to us to collaborate with local health and social care partners and make the new system work.

One late change to the Bill has been the introduction of a requirement on Foundation Trusts for increases of private income of more than 5% of total turnover to require the approval of the Council of Governors. Our level of private income is currently under 2%, so there would need to be substantial change before we needed to seek the approval of Governors.

Epsom Hospital

The last two months have been relatively quiet for us as the Strategic Health Authorities for London and South of England consider our request for funding of the merger with Epsom.
We have appointed Ian McNuff as our Integration Director, to oversee the process. His costs and other future transaction costs are being funded by the Strategic Health Authority.

We have been out briefing stakeholders about the proposed merger. Andrew Liles, Ian and myself met with the majority of MPs representing the areas served by both Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals and Epsom Hospital to brief them together about the proposed merger. Andrew, Chief Nurse, Suzanne Rankin, and myself also briefed Woking Council about developments at the Trust, our plans for Epsom hospital and the implications for their local residents. We were joined by two of our elected Governors for the Woking area, Keith Bradley and Maurice Cohen. In addition Andrew Liles and I met with LINks Surrey Chairman Cliff Busch and ASPH LINks Chairman Peter Hughes.

I have also met with Alan Rose, Chairman of York Hospitals Foundation Trust. Alan and his team are in the advanced stages of the takeover of a neighbouring NHS trust, Scarborough Hospital. There are many parallels between our two Trusts and it was useful to share our experiences of the merger process.

Governors

We held a Council of Governors meeting in January. We had a very useful discussion around the outcome of the CQC inspection in December and the continuing performance issues within the hospitals. These topics are covered elsewhere in the agenda for this meeting. For the Governors, their Council meeting was an important opportunity for an open discussion with the Governors holding the Board to account for the issues being raised.

Following the resignation of Neelam Baines, we have an election underway in Spelthorne to appoint a new Governor to the Council. I am pleased to report we have four candidates standing in the election. The result will be announced on 10 April.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Council of Governors is the appointment of the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors. The current terms of office of our longest serving Non-Executive Directors, Philip Beesley and Peter Taylor end in July and Terry Price in September. In addition, my own term of office ends in October. The Governors are therefore busy preparing to review appointments and or reappointments. The Remuneration and Appraisal Committee met earlier this month to consider the performance of each of us. Recommendations will be passed to the Nominations and Appointments Committee in the next few weeks and a final proposal will go to the Council of Governors meeting which is scheduled for 17 May.

Another of the Governors' roles is to advise the Board on the plans for the Trust. We have held a second meeting with the Governors to review the plans for next year (2012/13). A number of very helpful comments were received and these are being incorporated in the annual plan which is being approved by the Board today.

Jane Gear, Head of Corporate Affairs and Governors Judith Moore and Hugh Meares attended the Foundation Trust Governors' Association AGM and National Development Day. They will be reporting back on this at the next Council of Governors meeting.

Andrew Liles and I held an informal meeting with Governors to update them on developments within the Trust.

Chaplaincy Team

I am very sorry to report the death of Sister Mellitus Lawlor, Roman Catholic Chaplain for St Peter's Hospital. I joined a number of staff at the Requiem Mass for Sister Mellitus which was held in a packed St Dunstan's Catholic Church in Woking. The Chaplaincy team later held a Service of Thanksgiving at the St Peter's Multi-faith centre. Sister Mellitus was a familiar face around the Trust and she will be much missed by colleagues.

On a happier note, I welcomed to Ashford Hospital the Rt. Rev Paul Williams, Bishop of Kensington and Area Dean. He was primarily visiting the Chaplaincy team but had the opportunity to meet other members of staff and visitors to the hospital. It was a good opportunity to talk about the valuable role our multi-faith chaplaincy team plays within the Trust.

Other

I was pleased to welcome the Mayor of Runnymede, Councillor David Parr, to formally open Wren Ward and our new bariatric service. This promises to be an important new service for the Trust with patients already coming from as far afield as Hampshire and Sussex to have their surgery.
I also attended the opening of the newly refurbished Young People's unit on Ash Ward. These new facilities have been substantially funded by a generous donation from Proctor and Gamble for which we are very grateful.

Director of Finance: I am very sorry that John Headley will be leaving us, albeit he is taking on an exciting new challenge in a similar role at Maidstone and Tonbridge Wells NHS Trust. In March I chaired the panel for the Recruitment of his successor. We had a very strong field and made an appointment.

I attended a number of events during the last two months, including a Members' meeting focussing on Strokes; the Good to Great programme – Innovation and Productivity Masterclass; a second Celebration of Learning where I was able to hand out certificates to staff who have successfully completed training courses.

I have represented the Trust at the Surrey Provider Chair's Forum; the Foundation Trust Network (FTN) Chairs and Chief Executive's Conference; the FTN Quality Group; a Chairmen's meeting

with David Bennett, Chairman of Monitor; and a seminar at Oxford University entitled Patient Experience in a cold climate

Aileen McLeish
Chairman