Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
29th April 2010

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since March 2010
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	Refers to performance in 2009/2010. 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	N/A
LEGAL ISSUES	N/A
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish
Date:	21 April 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

Foundation Trust application: Our application is still working its way through the Department of Health. Over the last month there has been a huge amount of behind the scenes working responding to information requests from both the South East Coast SHA and the Department of Health. Our application has successfully passed through the scrutiny of all the English SHA Medical Directors, and at the time of writing we are awaiting the outcome of the final DoH review.

While we would normally expect to get through this stage by the end of April, it remains likely that the prospective General Election will delay the Secretary of State approving a recommendation of our application to Monitor. In the meantime we have started to receive nominations for Stakeholder Governors and myself and Jane Gear have started a programme of early meetings to bring these individuals up to speed

Our 2009/10 performance: This is covered in more detail elsewhere in these Board papers. It is important to note that this year has been our strongest in recent times. We are seen as been one of the strongest Non-Foundation Trusts in the South East Coast both in terms of our quality and financial performance. In addition with effect from 1 April, we have an unqualified registration with the Care Quality Commission (22 Trusts had qualifications on their registration including 12 Foundation Trusts). While we know we still have a lot to do to achieve our ambition to become one of the best performing Trusts in the country, it is a tribute to all our staff that we have made such good progress to date.

Recruitment of Non-Executive Directors: Recruitment is underway for a replacement for Norman Critchlow who steps down at the end of May and for the additional Non-Executive Director who will join our Board when we become a Foundation Trust. The deadline for applications was 15 April. I have been able to have a number of one to one meetings and telephone conversations with potential applicants ahead of this date. We also held an information evening which gave an opportunity for potential candidates to find out more about the Trust, meet members of the Board and tour St Peter's hospital. We have now received a number of interesting applications which are being reviewed prior to shortlisting. Interviews are scheduled for 11 May.

Staff Appreciation Awards: Andrew has covered this in more detail in his Chief Executive's report. I would just like to add my thanks to everyone who made it such a successful evening. Everyone I spoke to was delighted with the event. The nominees were especially pleased and honoured to have been nominated by their colleagues.

Staff Survey Results: Again Andrew covers this in more detail in his report. The results are particularly pleasing as our performance stood out with progress ahead of a significantly improved national position. This is an important demonstration of the improvements we have managed to make in a short period of time within the Trust. We plan to continue to build on this in the nest year.

Other activities this month: I have focussed a lot of my energies on meeting prospective candidates for our Non Executive Director positions this month. In addition

- It is annual appraisal season, so as well as preparing my own review ahead of meeting the Chair of the Strategic Health Authority, I have also had meetings with Andrew Liles and nearly all of the Non-Executive Directors to discuss their performance and future objectives. The exception is Philip Beasley whom I hope to see within the next week, but who is currently marooned in China trying to get back to the UK following the flight disruption due to the Icelandic volcanic eruption.
- I attended the a conference on effective Governance which was a useful opportunity to update on current issues within the health sector
- I gave a talk about the Trust to the Good Companions in Staines, a local social group. I was invited by one of our members and it proved to be a good opportunity to talk about the Trust and get feedback about our performance. There were many positive comments about care within the hospital. However the principle concern remained the issue of parking and transport to and from our site.
- I have had internal meetings with Phil Bearne the new Chairman of our Medical Staff Committee and with Jeremy Wright our newly appointed Clinical Director for Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- I attended an SHA event on Inclusive Leadership. This chimed strongly with our own equality agenda and it was useful to share and discuss other good practise and issues within the South East Coast.

Submitted by: Aileen McLeish

Date: 21st April 2010