Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
29th July 2010

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since June 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 July 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

White Paper for Health

The new Government's White Paper "*Equity and Excellence, Liberating the NHS*" was published on 12 July. Andrew Liles covers it in more detail in his Chief Executive's report to the Board.

It is clear that the white paper signals a significant change for the NHS, but it is difficult to argue with a strategy which signals greater local autonomy and making providers such as ourselves more accountable for quality of care for our patients. Overall there is a drive for excellence in a competitive market. Much of the detail has yet to emerge and we will of course have to wait for the outcome of the public consultation on the White paper. However nothing we have seen so far contradicts our strategic plans. Instead it further reinforces that our future success is dependent on delivering our strategic priorities and becoming the hospital of choice of our local population.

Foundation Trust application

As anticipated last month, our application was approved by the Secretary of State within a couple of days of arriving in his in-tray. A preliminary meeting has been held with Monitor and we are now waiting for their recommendations for the timetable for progressing our application. Both Andrew Liles and Mike Baxter were on leave when these first meetings were held. They were represented by Valerie Howell, Paul Crawshaw, and David Fluck who were able to demonstrate the strength and depth of our management team to the representatives from Monitor.

We are now busy preparing for the elections of our Governors as it is important that we have our Council of Governors in place before we are registered as a Foundation Trust. Two further information evenings have been arranged for members of the public who are interested in standing for election, both to update them on where we are and remind them of the process for elections. We are doing the same for prospective staff governors, and these meetings are planned for the end of July and early August. In the meantime we continue to press NHS Surrey, NHS Hounslow, Runnymede Council, and Woking Council for their nominations for Stakeholder Governors.

We recognise this final stage of our Foundation Trust application will be tough, but are confident we have the ability to pass through it.

Around and About within the Trust

I continue to make unscheduled visits around the hospitals and taking the opportunity to talk to staff, patients and visitors. We are now in the second of our trial of revised visiting times to the wards at St Peter's Hospital. While there have been some teething problems, on balance I have had positive feedback from patients and their visitors and also from staff. The biggest concerns which have reached me so far, have been from members of the community who haven't visited the hospital in the last two months and therefore have not directly experienced the new visitor times. They are worried about being unable to visit during the afternoon, the impact of this on lonely patients and the problems of visiting in the evenings. The Board will need to consider all the feedback at the end of the trial before deciding whether to permanently implement the new arrangements.

Civic Services

I have been privileged to represent the Trust at the Civic Services for the Mayor of Woking and also the service for the Mayor of Spelthorne. The former was held in the Woking mosque and marked the start of the year of office for Mayor Iqbal, the first Muslim Mayor of Woking. Both occasions were an opportunity to talk to people about their experiences of our hospitals. Generally the feedback has been very positive.

Annual General Meeting of Hashim Welfare Hospital

This year the Annual General Meeting was held at the H G Wells Centre in Woking with some 300 people attending and enjoying a meal and musical entertainment as well as the business of the AGM. It is a tribute to Dr Idrees Awan and the other members of his committee that they were able to attract so many from the community on a Sunday evening. The charity has done well this year attracting increased donations at a time when many other charities are seeing declining revenues. This year marked ten years of association between the Trust and the Hashim Welfare Hospital. The Trust has pledged to sponsor two of our staff to visit the hospital in Pakistan. We plan to solicit applications once Dr Awan has finalised details for the trip.

Meetings with other Chairmen

I participated in the latest meeting of a Chairman's Learning Set which includes Chairmen from the South East Coast Region. This one was hosted by Royal Surrey County and we gained some insight into their Patient First programme as well as visiting some of their wards. I also had meetings with Tony Mercer, Chairman of Surrey Community Health, and Mike Gretton, Chairman of Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust. All of these were excellent opportunities to share experiences and learn from each other

Other Activities

I was pleased to assist the Cardiology Department in the launch of their latest fundraising initiative.

I was present at the St Peter's Day service in the Multifaith Centre at St Peter's hospital, and attended the annual conference held at the Royal College of Physicians, this year entitled "*Quality Care – Everyone's Business*"

With Sue Ells I attended this year's Trust Summer Ball at Mercedes Benz World. The Student Doctor committee, led by Charlotte Walsh and Manasi Ingle, did an excellent job of organising the whole event. It was disappointing that not more staff attended, possibly because the Trust Christmas party will be held at the same venue. However the 70 or so who were there enjoyed themselves, and it was an excellent evening for these doctors to mark the end of their year at the Trust.

Submitted by: Aileen McLeish

Date: 21 July 2010