Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS
NHS Trust

TRUST BOARD
29th July 2010

TITLE	**Chief Executive's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	General overview of issues/developments
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	n/a
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	A number of important stakeholder meetings are listed. The White Paper sets a major direction for the NHS to be steered by its patients.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	n/a
LEGAL ISSUES	n/a
The Trust Board is asked to:	Note the report
Submitted by:	Andrew Liles
Date:	21st July 2010
Decision:	For Noting

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Chief Executive's Report

Appointments

I am sorry to inform the Board that Caroline Becher is taking retirement after 37 years in nursing. Caroline joined the Trust in June 2009 and has been passionate about 'Patients First', but has decided that she needs to spend mote time with her family.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing Caroline and her family quality time together in this next chapter of their lives. Caroline has much to be proud of – not least a lifelong career of professional nursing and leadership to the very highest standards. In her tenure at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust, she has developed and raised the profile of the matrons, developed robust and honest relationships with our patients and their representatives through inviting them to share their experiences with the Board and has laid strong foundations for her successor.

In the meantime, I am pleased to confirm that we have been fortunate to secure Susan Osborne CBE as our Interim Chief Nurse pending the recruitment and selection of the substantive postholder over the summer with interviews planned in early September 2010

Chris Bell will be joining in September as Associate Director of Estates and Facilities and Donna Jarrett has accepted the post of Associate Director of Informatics.

The White Paper

On 12 July 2010 Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health, presented the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition's health White Paper "*Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*". The White Paper sets out the Government's vision and strategy for a decentralised, locally led NHS with an increased emphasis on choice and competition and a relentless focus on quality.

The White Paper describes how the Government aims to bring about the change it seeks through

- Giving patients more information and choice about their care: "no decisions about me without me"
- Improving health outcomes to be among the best in the world
- Handing back power to NHS professionals – empowering clinicians to deliver results and putting GPs in charge of what services best meet the needs of local people
- Removing unnecessary bureaucracy, cutting waste and making the NHS more efficient

It sets out many structural changes to the NHS over the next 2-3 years, in summary:

- Removing SHAs and PCTs
- Forming new GP consortia to commission health care
- Forming a new NHS Commissioning Board to oversee this
- Reducing the role of the Department of Health to a just a strategic one
- This "de-layering" to save 45% of current management costs
- Monitor to become an independent regulator for all NHS providers
- All NHS hospitals to part of a Foundation Trust – and these to be more independent

- Local Authorities to have a new responsibility for public health and health improvement with ring fenced funds
- A new independent consumer champion called Health Watch.

Obviously many of these changes will be subject to approval of a new Health Bill by Parliament and the Government will be publishing engagement and consultation documents in the coming weeks and months to seek views on more detailed aspects of some of our proposals.

The White Paper's aim for the NHS is one in which Trust's like ours become an autonomous organisation with empowered professionals with our services commissioned by our local GP's that are integrated and patient centred. This is the same as the direction we have set ourselves and that we are making progress on.

Maternity Services

I am delighted to advise the Trust Board that our Maternity Services has received a "Highly Commended" award at the All Party Parliamentary awards for the second time. This year it recognised our Birth Reflections services which was presented on at our Pride in Nursing day earlier in the year. This information was embargoed until 19th July a press release has been sent to recognise this significant achievement.

The Maternity services were also subject to a Nursing & Midwifery Council visit on the 20th of July to assess the SHA's statutory duty in its local arrangements of supervising midwives. The team that visited were impressed with the level of supervision and with Ashford and St Peter's maternity services developments.

Information Governance

South East Coast SHA Board have agreed a SHA wide Information Sharing Protocol.. This overarching protocol comprises of a set of rules that organisations agree to comply with when sharing person identifiable information. It is a Tier 1 document within a three tier approach as recommended by the DH and supports one of the requirements of the information Governance toolkit.

The protocol sets out the obligations and commitments that staff must follow to ensure that legislation is not breached, and patients'/ clients'/ families'/ carers'/ staff/ employees' confidentiality is maintained.

This Protocol is not a licence to share information but a guide that must be followed by all staff. It provides a set of guiding principles and gives assurance that there is a consistent approach across South East Coast in relation to information sharing.

The purpose of this protocol is to ensure that everyone understands:

1. The importance of information sharing, where it improves care for individuals, enhances the efficiency and performance of organisations and where the information sharing is for the direct continuing care of users of service

2. That only the minimum information necessary for the purpose should be shared

3. That when information needs to be shared, sharing complies with the law, guidance and best practice

4. That individuals' rights must be respected, particularly confidentiality and Security

5. That confidentiality must be adhered to unless there is a robust public interest or a legal justification in disclosure

6. The importance and benefits of information security and confidentiality training

The protocol has been reviewed by the Information Governance Steering Group and I will be signing it on behalf of the Trust.

Meetings and visits

I have given a key note speech at the KSS Deanery Leadership conference at the Royal College of Physicians and an overview of the Trust presentation to the Woking Rotary Club.

Mike Baxter, David Fluck and I attended a meeting with Professor Roger Boyle the national clinical director for cardiology services, along with the other 3 acute Trusts in Surrey to discuss PCI services. This is relevant to our strategy to develop cardiology services.

David Clayton-Smith, the new Chairman of NHS Surrey visited Aileen and we took him on a visit to the Radiology department.

Submitted by: Andrew Liles

Date: 21st July 2010