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

TRUST BOARD
30th June 2011

TITLE	**Chairman's Report**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since May 2011
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:	23rd June 2011
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

Health and Social Care Bill: The pause to the Health and Social Care Bill ended earlier this month with recommendations from the health experts leading the listening exercise followed by responses from the Government. A number of changes are being made to the draft bill the full implications of which will become apparent over the next few months. However early indications are that commissioning will be more centrally driven and within the Bill there will be more complex layers of accountability including enhanced responsibilities towards patients and carers. Key changes include:

- improved governance for clinical commissioning groups: their governing bodies will have lay members and will meet in public; GP consortia will be called "clinical commissioning groups". They will have governing bodies with at least one nurse and one specialist doctor (neither of whom can work for the local acute Trust). There will no longer be an absolute deadline for these groups to be authorized to take over their commissioning budgets. If not ready by April 2013 the NHS Commissioning Board will commission on their behalf.
- There will also be flexibility on the deadline for all providers to become Foundation Trusts, although alternative solutions such as mergers will be found for those providers unlikely to meet the standards required of FTs
- Commissioners will be supported by clinical networks (advising on single areas of care, such as cancer) and new "clinical senates" (providing multi-professional advice on local commissioning plans) - both hosted by the NHS Commissioning Board.
- The NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups will be required to take active steps to promote the NHS Constitution, which enshrines the core principles and values of the NHS, including the 18 week limit on waiting times.
- Monitor's (the Foundation Trust regulator) core duty will be to protect and promote the interests of patients - not to promote competition as if it were an end in itself; there will be new safeguards against price competition, cherry picking and privatisation; The Competition and Co-operation panel will be transferred to Monitor; the NHS Commissioning Board will promote innovative ways to integrate care for patients.
- Foundation Trusts and other providers will have a duty to be open in dealings with the public including having public board meetings;
- There will be clearer duties across the system to involve the public, patients and carers
- There will be a careful transition process on education and training, to avoid instability. The intention is to put Health Education England in place quickly to provide national leadership and strong accountability while moving towards provider-led networks in a phased way.
- Monitor will continue to regulate Foundation Trusts at least until 2015. As a

consequence plans to give greater powers to Governors, such as having to vote on major decisions by the Trust, are being postponed.

Car Parking: We have made a number of improvements to car parking on both sites. Over the next few months patients and other visitors should see the benefits of the investment we have made at St Peter's, with more space been available, the convenience of payment on exit and the ability to pay using cards as well as cash. However we also have an obligation to reduce car traffic and this month we have started a period of consultation with staff regarding proposals to introduce car parking charges. The Board appreciates this is not an easy issue for staff and we welcome all suggestions during this period of consultation.

Epsom Hospital: This potential for a merger with this hospital was discussed at our Board meeting last month. Epsom hospital is currently part of Epsom and St Helier Hospitals NHS Trust the Board of which has decided they will not be able to become a Foundation Trust on their own. The two hospitals are being offered separately for merger with other NHS bodies. We have registered our interest in Epsom hospital and have been accepted to progress to the next stage in the process in competition with the Royal Surrey County Foundation Trust. We are awaiting full details of how activities and staff are being allocated to the Epsom site. In the meantime we have convened a Board Committee to oversee our approach to a bid and we are also holding a special closed meeting with Governors to brief them about our approach.

Approval of 2010/11 Reports and Accounts and Quality Account: This was a much more complicated process this year. We had two sets of reports and accounts, covering the period as an NHS Trust and the period as a Foundation Trust, with two sets of reporting requirements. For the first time we co-ordinated producing the report and the accounts simultaneously. In addition we prepared our second annual Quality Accounts which this year were subject to a review by the Auditors for the first time. The process for all these documents was highly complex. All these documents were approved and signed off earlier this month. Once lodged with Parliament and Monitor we will be able to share them with our Council of Governors and then our members and the broader public. An Annual General Meeting is being planned for 29th September 2011.

Awardwinning Housekeeping Team
Our housekeeping team have just been awarded the President's Cup at the National Association for Healthcare Cleaning Professionals' Annual Conference, held in Telford earlier this month. They received the award in recognition of their successful Health and Wellbeing event last year – a week long health and wellbeing programme that staff could dip in and out of, including managed fitness sessions, dance, Indian head massage treatments, sponsored lunches and other sessions, all under the banner of taking 'Pride in our Team'.

Other
I had dinner with Idrees Awan and the outgoing and incoming mayors of Woking, respectively Councillor Mohammed Iqbal and Councillor Ken Howard, to discuss the Hashim Welfare Hospital which this Trust has provided support and advice to over the last ten years.
I have met with new LINks Chairman Peter Hughes and with Andrew Liles, and I met the new Chair and Deputy Chairman of Surrey HOSC, respectively Councillor Nick Skellet and Councillor Zully Grant-Duff.

Andrew and I met Jonathan Lord, MP for Woking, and briefed him about the Trust. I attended one of the training sessions for the Clinical Speciality Leads. This session covered clinical governance reporting and it was useful to discuss the Board prospective on this important subject.

FT Preparation Seminar
I attended a Monitor/Boston Consulting Group event titled 'Ensuring Patient Safety in Times of Austerity' which was helpful in understanding other NHS organisations' approach given the current pressures in the system.
I also attended:

- FTN meeting
- Surrey Provider Chairs meeting
- Good to Great Programme Masterclass
- Board Development Day
- NHS Confederation Meeting
- Myself and NED Sue Ells attended the Annual Service of Remembrance at St Peter's for families who had lost
- Governor update
- Eileen Nolan's retirement

I represented the Trust at both the Surrey Local Government Dinner and the High Sherriff of Surrey's Garden Party

Submitted by: Aileen McLeish

Date: 23 June 2011