

**TRUST BOARD**  
**31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	The report presents highlights of recent activities.
<b>BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS</b>	N/a
<b>STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS</b>	The report refers to meetings with external stakeholders.
<b>LINK TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE/BAF</b>	Report encompasses reference to all Trust Strategic Objectives.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES</b>	N/a
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	None known.
<b>The Trust Board is asked to:</b>	Receive the report.
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Aileen McLeish, Chairman
<b>Date:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
<b>Decision:</b>	To Receive

## Chairman's Report July 2014

### The Board

#### **Andrew Liles**

This will be Andrew's last Board meeting as he steps down from the role of Chief Executive at the end of August. During the over 5.5 years Andrew has been at this Trust he has led the organisation through a transformation in terms of the reputation and standing of its hospitals. Recent highlights include ASPH being listed as one of the top five Trusts in the country for quality of care and in the top three for quality of data. Earlier this summer Andrew was honoured as one of the top 100 Chief Executives in NHS providers, having been nominated by his peers. Personally I have thoroughly enjoyed our collaboration over the last few years and would like to thank him for everything he has done for the Trust, our patients and staff and the communities we serve. I would like to wish him well for his future chosen career as well as spending more quality time with his wife Lisa and on his allotment.

#### **Suzanne Rankin**

Many congratulations to Suzanne Rankin, Chief Nurse, who has been appointed to take over as Chief Executive of the Trust with effect from 1 September. Suzanne was appointed following a thorough external recruitment process. She was the unanimous choice of the Non-Executive Directors and her appointment was similarly endorsed by the Council of Governors last month. I look forward to working with her as we deal with the challenges ahead.

Recruitment is already underway to find Suzanne's replacement as Chief Nurse and we hope to be able to make an appointment in September 2014. Meanwhile, Heather Caudle has been appointed as Acting Chief Nurse.

#### **Jim Gollan**

I am very sorry to announce that Non-Executive Director, Jim Gollan, will be stepping down from the Board at the end of this month. Jim joined the Board in April 2011 and has made an active contribution to many aspects of the Board's responsibilities including chairing the Finance Committee. He is much respected for his business and financial acumen. On behalf of colleagues I would like to thank him for all his hard work for the Trust and wish him well in his other non-executive roles.

The Nominations Committee of the Council of Governors has met to agree a process for filling the gap left by Jim, taking account of the current priorities of the organisation. We plan to put a proposal to the Council of Governors in September.

### Performance

Congratulations to colleagues for achieving the four hour A&E waiting time target for the first quarter of this year. However, July has been a challenging month with increasing numbers of elderly patients with complex needs requiring to be admitted to hospital. The demands on our services have been unprecedented for this time of year. Early analysis indicates there may be a

specific issue in North West Surrey, although this is within a context of growing pressures on A&E Departments across the country. A full report on this and other aspects of our performance is covered later on in the agenda. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank our staff for all their hard work and commitment in ensuring that we maintain safe and effective care of our patients.

### **Proposed Merger with Royal Surrey County Hospital**

Work has started in earnest to prepare for submission of data to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and to Monitor, the Foundation Trust regulator. The newly established Strategic Oversight Group comprising of Chairmen, Chief Executives, NEDs and Strategy Directors of the two Trusts had its first meeting to review progress of the merger. At the time of writing we are preparing for our first strategic planning meeting with Monitor. There have been a number of other meetings this month involving members of the Board, to progress the merger:

- A Board to Board meeting with Royal Surrey County.
- Peter Dunt, Chairman of Royal Surrey County, and I hosted a meeting of Chairmen of provider organisations in Surrey to explain the merger.
- First meeting of a joint group of Governors and Non-Executive Directors from both Trusts to review the proposed constitution of the new organisation.
- A number of us attended a seminar hosted by McKinsey on the subject of Navigating the changing Healthcare Regulatory Environment which had a particular focus on mergers.

### **Governors**

Earlier this month the Board presented to the Council of Governors the Annual Report, Quality Account and Financial Accounts for 2013/14. This is an important requirement in the governance of the Trust, giving Governors the opportunity to question the Board on the performance for the year. Overall the report was well received, although it is generally recognised that the rising demand for services in the face of the continuing financial squeeze will remain a challenge for the Board for the foreseeable future.

Our Annual Members' meeting was well attended. Around 100 people joined us at St Peter's Hospital despite the very warm temperatures. Many Governors joined Board members, other colleagues and volunteers to help with visits to the new Cardiac Unit and Interventional Suite, manning stands and the formal presentation and question and answer session. As well as presentations on 2013/14, Consultant Radiologist Alex Chapman gave a very informative talk on the activities of the Radiology Department, including our collaboration with Phillips via a Managed Equipment Service Agreement. Thank you to everyone for helping to make the evening a success.

The process is underway for electing a new Governor for Runnymede. Nominations from candidates need to be received by noon on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

### **Staff**

I chaired three Consultant panels which led to the appointment of Consultant Respiratory Physicians Shashank Sharma and Poonam Puthran and Consultant Neonatologists Anay Kulkarni and Vennila Ponnusamy. Unfortunately we were unable to appoint to fill the vacancies in geriatric medicine and will continue to search for the right candidates to these important positions.

I was delighted to meet the winners of our first “Be the Change Awards”. This was an initiative led by junior doctors to identify and implement improvement projects throughout the Trust. The overall award winners were voted on by members of the public, with first prize being won by a team from our Porters Department for their ideas for improving signage within the hospital. They have received £5,000 to implement their ideas.

I attended the latest Schwartz round, a forum of staff to share their feelings around events they were involved in. This was a very timely discussion about the pressures many of our senior colleagues feel as when the hospitals are full.

### **Car Parking Charges**

At our Board meeting in May, we reviewed car parking charges. We agreed that we needed to ensure that concessions for car parking should be prioritised for those least able to pay. As part of these measures we agreed to no longer automatically give free car parking to holders of blue badge disabled passes. The background and rationale for this decision was set out in the Board paper and minutes at the time.

At the time of our decision we committed to our Disability Access Group that we would hold a public meeting to explain our decision, listen to feedback and to discuss other access issues and current parking concessions. This meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July and was attended by over 50 members of the public; the majority of whom were opposed to charges for those with blue badge passes. At that meeting, I and other members of the Board, agreed to feedback to this Board meeting, for the Board to consider its position on car parking charges. This is covered later in the agenda.

### **Other**

I joined our Patient Panel meeting this month to discuss their questions and concerns about the Trust and the NHS locally.

I attended the FTN Annual Governance Conference and helped by chairing a session on trusts in special measures.

I attended the launch of the Surrey Parkinson’s Research Collaboration (SPaRC). This is one of a number of initiatives under Surrey Health Partners which brings together researchers from the University of Surrey and the Royal Holloway, University of London, as well as clinicians from ASPH and Royal Surrey.

I joined a meeting of the Oxford NHS Chairs’ forum with Professor Sir John Bell FRS, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University and Chairman of the Office for the Strategic Coordination of Health Research. He led a fascinating discussion around the main challenges of the health sector including slow adoption of new techniques and procedures within the NHS, missed opportunities to gain efficiencies from adoption of new technologies, Estonia leading the way in adoption of electronic health records, technology improving governance and quality in pathology, ideas for maintaining the efficacy of antibiotics and improvements needed to ensure the traceability of drugs throughout the supply chain.

Medical Director David Fluck and I hosted a visit by Runnymede Councillor David Parr to our new Cardiac Unit. Councillor Parr had nominated our Cardiology service as one of the beneficiaries of his charitable activities during his mayoral year.

I represented the Trust at the Graduation Ceremony of St Georges, University of London.