

**TRUST BOARD**  
**27th January 2011**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	Highlights of activities since December 2010
<b>BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS</b>	N/A
<b>STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS</b>	Refers to meetings with external stakeholders
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES</b>	None known
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	None known
<b>The Trust Board is asked to:</b>	Note the report.
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Aileen McLeish
<b>Date:</b>	20th January 2011
<b>Decision:</b>	For Noting

**TRUST BOARD**  
**27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**  
**Chairman's Report**

**Health and Social Care Bill:** As I write this report we are all beginning to digest the content of this new bill which has just been presented to Parliament. At 367 pages, the bill is one of the largest health bills ever to go before Parliament. Much of the content has already been trailed especially the move to GP led commissioning and the dissolution of Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts. Of particular interest to us are proposed changes in the responsibilities of Foundation Trusts:

- Regulation of FTs will pass from Monitor (who will become the economic regulator for the whole sector) to a new operationally independent banking function which will be established by the Dept of Health. This new function will behave like a bank and exert control over Foundation Trusts through the use of regulations similar to bank covenants in relation to debt.
- The cap on private income will be removed, giving us more freedom to generate income outside the NHS
- Mergers between FTs will be made easier and there will be revisions to the failure regime.

The Bill remains a significant area of discussion while it progresses through Parliament and this Board will be keeping its strategy under review in the light of the changes being proposed. (See also briefing paper 8.5 on the agenda)

**Activity in the hospital:** The last 2 months have been particularly challenging within the hospitals as we have coped with a significant increase in emergency admissions. There has been a similar experience throughout the region. We have had to add bed capacity and cancel some elective work to meet the emergency demands. This will be covered more thoroughly elsewhere in the meeting. However, I would like to pay tribute to all our staff for their professionalism and fortitude in ensuring that patients can continue to get the best care within our hospitals.

**Council of Governors:** We have started the induction programme for our Governors. We held a well attended session on 17 January where we covered the Trust and the environment in which it operates. We have also conducted tours of the 2 sites. Some of our Governors have not been able to participate in these events and we plan to hold follow up sessions to bring everyone up to speed. In addition, I continue to hold one to one meetings with our new Governors. Initial feedback on the induction provided to date has been very positive.

In anticipation of the next meeting of the Council we have started the process of appointing a Lead Governor. We are pleased a number of candidates have put themselves forward and we will be facilitating a vote among the Governors to appoint a Lead for the next 12 months.

**Recruitment of two new Non-Executive Directors:** This has been my main priority over the last few weeks. Our Council of Governors have organised the Nominations and Appointment and Remuneration and Appraisal Committees both of which met in December to make the key decisions to enable the recruitment process to commence. An advert went into the Sunday Times on 9 January.

This is the first time we have conducted the process as a Foundation Trust and we have been proactive in drawing on all our contacts through staff and public members to attract the right candidates. We have also commissioned a couple of executive recruitment companies to trawl their databases on our behalf. Early signs are that we are seeing a lot of interest from a number of good candidates. We held a meeting attended by c25 people who were

able to meet members of the Board and learn more about the Trust. The deadline for applications is 26 January with interviews on 7 February. The final decision on appointment will be made by the Council of Governors when they meet on 15 February.

**Volunteers:** I was delighted to join the Volunteers at their Christmas lunch. This was a chance for us to say thank you to our volunteers for everything they contribute to the Trust. We had an excellent lunch prepared by the staff in the Aspect restaurant at Ashford. Thank you to Julie Addison and her team for organising this event. Thank you also to Judith Alford, Maureen Body and the Chaplaincy team for organising highly successful Carol Services at the St Peter's and Ashford Multicultural Centres.

**Stakeholder Governor for the aspirant South East Coast Ambulance Foundation Trust:** SECAMB are well advanced in their application to become a Foundation Trust. They plan to have a single stakeholder representing Acute Trusts on their Council of Governors. This position will rotate around the Acute Trusts in the area. Peter Taylor, Non-Executive Director has agreed to be the Stakeholder Governor representing ourselves and other Acute Trusts

**Suzanne Rankin:** I would like to formally welcome Suzanne who has joined the Board as Chief Nurse. We are all looking forward to working with Suzanne in realising our ambitions to become one of the best healthcare Trusts in the country.

**Other:** I was involved in meetings with:

Phillip Hammond MP for Runnymede

Mike Harris the new Chairman of South East Coast Ambulance Service

Mike Aaronson Chairman of Frimley Park Foundation Trust

Robert Tambini and Brian Harris respectively Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive of Spelthorne Borough Council

Mike Irani Chairman of the Local Negotiating Committee

I attended a meeting of the Board and Consultants to discuss progress and developments within the Trust.

I also attended the Finance Committee of the Board.

**Submitted by:** Aileen McLeish 20 January 2011