

TRUST BOARD
27th October 2011

TITLE	Chairman's Report
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Highlights of activities since September 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:	20 th October 2011
Decision:	For Noting

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Chairman's Report

CQC Report on care in hospitals

During the last month the Care Quality Commission reported on the results of their visits to 100 hospitals in England. In 50% of the hospitals visited they found examples of poor care of the elderly. This prompted a substantial debate in the media regarding the treatment of elderly within the NHS.

We were not one of the hospital Trusts visited by the CQC. Chief Nurse, Suzanne Rankin, and her team have been leading a number of initiatives to ensure that our patients receive high quality care. We have also have used the opportunity of the CQC audits to remind all staff of the essential elements of care and to carry out a number of reviews of our wards. The results of these have been fed back to the Board in the Quality Report over the last few months.

Epsom Hospital

During the month it was announced that Royal Surrey County had withdrawn from the process leaving ASPH as the only potential bidder for Epsom Hospital. Meanwhile St George's Hospital remains the only potential bidder for St Helier Hospital.

We are now preparing for the Board decision regarding whether we will bid to merge with Epsom hospital. A great deal of time is being devoted to completing our due diligence and preparing the bid which is due to be submitted on 11 November. A number of meetings have been taking place to review progress and prepare for a final Board decision in early November. For example the Non-Executive Directors met with Andrew and myself to reconsider the context within Surrey given that we are now sole potential bidder, Royal Surrey and Frimley Park are discussing closer collaboration, and Assura have been named as the preferred bidders for Surrey Community Services; the Finance Committee have reviewed the latest financial projections for Epsom; the full Board will have met in private session ahead of today's Board meeting to review the proposals for Epsom; the Governors are being briefed next week and asked for their views on our draft proposals. We have also had a number of meetings and discussions with members of the Transaction Board who are managing the process on behalf of Epsom and St Helier Hospitals.

This is an important decision for the Board and we are making sure that all Directors are fully briefed, and able to participate in that decision.

Mike Baxter

I am sorry to report that Mike Baxter has decided to retire from the NHS and from his role of Medical Director of the Trust. He will be leaving this role on 31st January 2012. We are all indebted to Mike for the leadership he has demonstrated as a member of the Board. I would particularly like to thank him for the support he gave me during my first few months as Chairman of the Trust, a period of significant change at Board level.

The Board Nominations Committee has met to agree a process of appointing an Interim Medical Director, pending the outcome of decisions regarding Epsom hospital.

Governors

We are approaching the first anniversary of becoming a Foundation Trust. I have started to have individual meetings with each of the Governors to review progress to date and how we can

improve things for the future. In addition David Frank, Lead Governor, has chaired the first of 2 informal meetings of Governors to consider whether they are fulfilling their responsibilities both now and in the light of changes anticipated in the Health and Social Care Bill.

During the month I have also attended a meeting with Staff Governors, Raj Bhamber and Phillip Beesley to progress discussions on enabling the Staff Governors to fulfil their roles. We have had another of our quarterly informal coffee sessions with Governors, discussing current issues. In addition there has been a meeting between Andrew Laurie, Divisional Director for Diagnostics and Therapeutics, Governors and myself to discuss concerns expressed about merging our Pathology services with those of Frimley Park and Royal Surrey Hospitals.

The Council of Governors' Nominations Committee has met to consider the role of Deputy Chairman and to start to plan the process for Non-Executive Director appointments/reappointments which are due over the next 12 months.

I have chaired a meeting of Governors to consider the impact on the composition of the Council of Governors of a potential merger with Epsom Hospital.

We have received the resignation of Neelam Bains, public governor for Spelthorne. She has informed us that this is for personal reasons, as pressures of her work have meant that she feels unable to carry out the role. As a consequence of her resignation we have started planning to hold an election in Spelthorne in the New Year.

Congratulations to Staff Governor, Samantha Lamb, who gave birth to a baby daughter at St Peter's Hospital last week.

Other

I was pleased to give a speech to Ashford Rotary Club about the "business" of running a large hospital Trust. I have promised to return in a year's time to report on progress at the Trust. I have had two meetings with Professor Michael Joy High Sherriff of Surrey and former Consultant at ASPH.

I have had separate meetings with Tony Thorne, newly appointed Chairman of South East Coast Ambulance Service FT, Ian Church, Chairman of Central Surrey Health, and Graham Eccles, Chairman of Assura Health.

I met with two senior managers who have recently joined the Trust, Claire Braithwaite, Associate Director of Performance and Improvement, and Heather Caudle, Associate Director of Quality. I attended Jeremy Wright's retirement party on 30 September and thanked him on behalf of the Trust for his long service as a Consultant, Clinical Director and Head of Research.

I attended the Foundation Trust Network's Governance Conference, which was an opportunity to reflect on national issues as well as best practice among Foundation Trusts. I also attended the Cass Business School Centre for Better Managed Health and Social Care School Annual Debate

I attended the Kent Surrey Sussex School of Surgery review presented by Humphrey Scott, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon.

Aileen McLeish
Chairman