

**TRUST BOARD**  
**29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

<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>	21 January 2015
<b>Decision:</b>	To Receive

## Chairman's report

January 2015

### Emergency care and major incident status

Over the Christmas period staff in our hospitals coped with unprecedented attendances at the A&E Department. In addition, while our hospitals absorbed the extra patients requiring treatment there was very little available capacity externally in the surrounding health care and social services systems. The situation developed due to these challenging capacity pressures to the extent that the Trust had to declare a full Major Incident in the first week of January. Staff said it was probably the most challenging position they have ever experienced. This situation was replicated across the country with a number of other Trusts also declaring a major Incident.

At the peak we had c100 medical outliers across our hospitals, including Ashford, every available escalation area was open and we still had patients in A&E awaiting admission to hospital. Understandably our front-line staff were under huge pressure, and on behalf of the Board I would like to thank them for all their hard work to continue to provide high quality care to our patients. We cancelled many outpatient clinics and planned operations to free up additional medical support for the wards to ensure all inpatients were seen by a consultant every day. These were not decisions taken lightly.

Clearly, declaring a major incident put the Trust in the media spotlight. Interviews were given to local radio and on 10 January, BBC Radio 4's Today programme did a broadcast live from our A&E department interviewing Sister Patricia Miles, Dr Tim Williams, Sister Tessa Martin, Hardev Gill, Dr Peter Wilkinson, Suzanne Rankin, Dr Helen Cannon, and Sister Sarah Moth.

The situation is gradually returning to normal and there is time to reflect and learn from what happened. A full report will be provided during the Board meeting.

### CQC Inspection

The Trust was visited by a large team of over 60 inspectors in early December. Over three days they carried out the inspection of our hospitals including meetings with patients and staff. Non-Executives also played their part with me and Professor Philip Beesley being interviewed individually as well as all the NEDs having a joint interview. There was a lot of pressure in the hospital while the inspection was taking place so the inspectors were able to see the excellent care being provided in what is now a typical week within the hospitals. Full feedback is expected in the middle of next month when we receive the draft report. A Quality Summit has been scheduled for March 6 when we will share and discuss the results with partners in the local health economy as well as with patient representatives.

## **Proposed Merger with the Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

The Competition and Merger Authority (CMA) finally accepted the merger case in late December. They have a statutory duty to report by 19 February when we will know whether they accept our arguments that the loss of competition is more than offset by patient benefits. If not, and the CMA propose a further Stage 2 review, both Boards will need to consider the risks and whether to progress with the proposed merger.

On 6 January each Board held a special meeting to consider the first draft of the Full Business case. While there was general agreement on continuing, it is clear from the discussions there is a lot more work to be done to hone and balance the arguments for the merger.

A meeting was held of the strategic Overview Committee to review the progress and planning for the proposed merger. The CMA delaying accepting the merger proposal has resulted in a revision to the timetable with completion expected by the autumn.

Two meetings have been held with the Merger Stakeholder panel. These have been useful sessions helping us to firm up our plans for further engagement with the public and other stakeholders, as well as getting feedback on how we can best nuance our messages regarding the impact of the proposed merger.

Peter Dunt, Chairman of Royal Surrey County and I, supported by Louise McKenzie, conducted interviews of recruitment consultants to support the recruitment of Chairman, Non-Executive Directors and Chief Executive for the shadow board of the new merged organisation. A choice has been made which is being referred back to both Joint Nominations committees (one comprising Governors and one of Non-Executive Directors) for ratification. The process for formal recruitment will not commence until after CMA have given clearance and both Boards have agreed to progress with the merger.

## **Christmas festivities**

As is usual I spent Christmas morning touring both hospitals seeing as many patients, staff and visitors as possible. There were many formal and informal Christmas celebrations in the weeks leading up to Christmas. I helped host a Christmas lunch at Ashford Hospital for our volunteers where we were entertained by the ASPH Staff Choir. The Choir also gave performances in the main entrance of both hospitals as well as singing on some of our wards. In addition, our Dermatology department put together their choir and gave a concert one lunch time in the main entrance of St Peter's Hospital. The Hope Christian Centre choir also visited and entertained visitors and patients at St Peter's Hospital. Carol Services were held in the multi-faith centres at both Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals and many Departments held their own Christmas parties and raffles.

St Peter's Hospital would like to thank Eagle Radio and all the people who donated to their Christmas Toy Appeal this year. Toys from the Appeal were given to young patients who were in hospital over the Christmas period. In addition The Friends of both Ashford Hospital and St Peter's Hospital organised gifts for all inpatients over Christmas.

A number of the Board were pleased to join the Heartbeat Christmas dinner dance. Heartbeat are an active group of former patients and their families who provide a lot of support for our cardiology team and current patients as well as providing mutual support and encouragement to those recovering from heart attacks.

## **Staff**

I chaired the appointment panel for the recruitment of a new colorectal surgeon, and we are delighted to welcome Prateesh Trivedi, who was successful. We also had a successful appointment panel for an Interventional Radiologist resulting in the appointment of Antoni Sergot.

Congratulations to our Orthopaedic Early Discharge Team who won the Clinical leadership Award for Kent Surrey Sussex earlier this month.

I met with Dr Clive Coddington on the occasion of his retirement from the Trust and the NHS. Clive has worked as a GP in the area for many years and has worked closely with our cardiology team providing additional support to patients at clinics at our hospitals.

I attended Paula Singleton's retirement party. Paula has worked for over 20 years for the trust providing secretarial and administrative support to a number of consultants, many of whom gathered to mark her retirement.

Staff Nurse Spreadbury who worked for many years in the children's ward at Ashford hospital sadly passed away on New Year's Eve. A number of colleagues attended her funeral earlier this month

## **Governors**

We held a Council of Governors meeting in December. This was an opportunity to update the Governors on the performance of the Trust as well as on the progress of the merger.

Unfortunately this was Keith Goodger's last meeting. Keith has decided to step down from the Council for personal reasons. Keith has been on the Council since 2010 serving as the elected member for Richmond, and has been particularly active in supporting our work on transport and car parking.

## **Other**

I am very sorry to report the death of Simon Parish who has worked with the Trust as a patient advocate and representative. A number of us attended a service of celebration and thanksgiving on 20 January.

I joined the North West Surrey branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship for their Christmas lunch. Last year I accepted the branch's offer to become their Honorary President. This role gives me a good opportunity to network with former colleagues many of whom have spent much of their careers in the NHS.

I attended the Chairs and CEOs meeting of NHS providers (formerly known as the Foundation Trust Network).

I addressed the AGM of Voluntary Action in Spelthorne

Suzanne and I met with Philip Hammond MP. We also had a meeting with our counterparts at Northwest Surrey CCG respectively Julia Ross and Liz lawn

I joined other Directors at a presentation of the Dignity Study led by Professor Ota of Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan and also involving Professor Ann Gallagher from the University of Surrey (and ASPH Governor). ASPH has been participating in this international study which is looking at how to define and measure the dignity of patients in hospitals.