

TRUST BOARD
30 April 2015

TITLE	Chairman's Report
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	The report presents highlights of recent activities.
BOARD ASSURANCE (Risk) / IMPLICATIONS	N/a
STAKEHOLDER / PATIENT IMPACT AND VIEWS	The report refers to meetings with external stakeholders.
LINK TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE/BAF	Report encompasses reference to all Trust Strategic Objectives.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES	N/a
LEGAL ISSUES	None known.
The Trust Board is asked to:	Receive the report.
Submitted by:	Aileen McLeish, Chairman
Date:	23 April 2015
Decision:	To Receive

Chairman's report

April 2015

General Election

With political campaigning in full swing we are now in the purdah period when we have to scrupulously avoid getting involved in the politics of the election. However we can correct any inaccurate information being distributed by local parliamentary candidates.

A misleading impression is being promulgated that this Trust was in crisis over the winter due to cuts in front line staff. This is not true. We have been adding to our staffing and continue to recruit to fill vacancies. The issues of last winter arose due to unprecedented levels of demand for our services. During the winter months we had to postpone a number of outpatient and elective appointments, but no patients were turned away from using our services.

Current Performance

2014/15 has been a difficult year with pressures on performance due to high demand for our services. This has come at the same time as the financial squeeze has become more intense. In 2014/15 we have reported our first financial deficit for many years. Delivery of the A&E target has proved to be challenging in the face of an extraordinary increase in numbers of patients needing to be admitted to hospital, and then taking longer to discharge. On the other hand we have made progress in reducing the waiting list for elective procedures and improving our cancer response times. A full report will be provided in other sections of the Board papers. When considering our performance it is important to compare it with what is happening in other parts of the NHS in England. Similar issues are being reported across the country and it is reassuring that despite the issues Monitor has continued to give us a quality rating of green and a financial rating of 3.

Negotiations over the annual financial settlement have been particularly protracted this year and continued into the start of the new financial year. We are now close to a settlement and the final position will be reported on in the meeting. However it is clear that we cannot continue with business as usual. In addition to the proposed merger with Royal Surrey (see below) the Board is actively working with our local commissioners to review other additional initiatives to improve our financial sustainability so ensuring we can continue to provide high quality care for our patients.

It is good to see that the quality of care we provide continues to be recognized. We have been shortlisted in the CHKs Top Hospitals Awards both in the Quality of Care and the Patient Safety categories. The results will be announced on 19 May

Proposed Merger with Royal Surrey

Work on the merger remains on hold while the Competition and Merger Authority (CMA) continue with their stage 2 review. Together with Royal Surrey we hosted a visit by the CMA independent panel to both Trusts. This was our first opportunity to meet the panel who will rule on our proposed merger, to show them around all three sites and to explain how we operate and the consequences if the merger is not allowed to proceed. Meanwhile a great deal of work is underway to assist the CMA in their review of the proposed merger. We have

urged the CMA to stick to the existing timetable for the review which on the current timetable will mean they report in August.

The CMA is particularly interested in how competition works in the local public sector health economy. They are open to comments from staff and members of the public on this important issue.

We held a meeting of the stakeholder panel during the month to update on where we are and review how best to communicate to the public during the interregnum of the CMA's review

Governors and members

Suzanne Rankin and I had an informal meeting with Governors for a general update on the Trust and current items of interest.

We have started to prepare for Governor elections which are due to be held in the autumn. This affects five of our publicly elected Governor positions and two of our staff Governors. It is important we have a full Council of Governors in place during the coming months. In particular Governors have an important role in the approval processes of the proposed merger, if it does go ahead.

The merger will mean that a new Foundation Trust is created taking on the responsibilities of Ashford & St Peters Foundation Trust and Royal Surrey County Hospital Foundation Trust. We will therefore be holding elections for the Council of Governors for the newly created Trust sometime in the New Year.

Earlier this month, we had an excellent attendance at a members' meeting on the subject of cancer services. Lead cancer clinician Sarah Burton led the session and we had a lot of good support from the cancer patient group and voluntary groups such as the Fountain Centre. This was also an opportunity to update members on the status of our plans for merger.

Staff

This month we celebrated the contributions of many of our staff at our annual staff achievement awards. This was a lovely occasion to congratulate and celebrate with staff and reflect on the fantastic care they provide to patients. We also used the opportunity to remember members of staff who had passed away during the last year. There were many awards handed out during the ceremony but special mention must go to our Chaplain Rev Judith Alford who received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Trust.

I chaired an appointment panel for a new Consultant in Dermatology. We were very happy to appoint Annabelle Scott to the post.

I spent a morning with Kathryn Wood who is leading on the Releasing Time to Care initiative. This was an opportunity to tour round many of our wards and see what is being done to improve our processes while freeing up staff to spend more time with patients. I attended the launch of our new breast feeding app which will be of great benefit for new mothers.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of Radio Wey. We were delighted to see them take over the St. Peter's hospital main entrance for a week, bringing their whole team into the heart of the hospital. I was also pleased to join them at their gala dinner

celebrations. Immediately prior to the celebrations, Radio Wey's newly elected Chairman Mandy Morrow, won Silver in the category of Best Female Presenter at this year's National Hospital Broadcasting Association Awards. Many congratulations to Mandy.

Other

The Board had a meeting with our counterparts at South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust. We met at the Ambulance Control Centre in Banstead and had a chance to tour the facility as well as discuss areas for further collaboration.

Suzanne and I were delighted to mark the opening of the new Surgical Admissions Lounge at St Peter's Hospital. This is a purpose built space close to theatres which gives patients privacy while they prepare for their procedures. Overall it provides a better experience for patients and staff.

I represented the Trust at the retirement party for Spelthorne Council's Deputy Chief Executive Liz Borthwick.

I met with the Chairs of Royal Surrey, Peter Dunt, and Frimley Health, Mike Aaronson.

I represented the Trust at the 10th anniversary celebrations of GASP Motor project.

I represented the Trust at Woking Council's Commemoration service for Major Richard Willis VC, 100 years after his involvement in the Gallipoli Landings.