

TRUST BOARD
31st October 2013

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	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:	24 th October 2013
Decision:	To Receive

Chairman's Report

31st October 2013

Peter Taylor

Peter has been a Non-Executive Director of the Trust since 2008 and will be stepping down from the Board at the end of this month. During his time on the Board, Peter has been very helpful in a broad range of commercial areas including marketing and the introduction of the "Lean" philosophy and practise. He has been an active member of the Board, attending and chairing a range of Board committees as well as having been the Senior Independent Director for the last three years. He has also been a supporter and mentor of Executive Directors and senior staff. His commercial and local government experience has been highly valued by colleagues. I would like to thank Peter for his contribution to the Trust and wish him all the best for the future.

NHS developments

Last week saw the announcement of a new Chief Executive for NHS England, Simon Stephens. Initial comments have been very positive but Simon will be joining the NHS at a difficult time. There is a growing consensus within the NHS that if we are to preserve the principal of free access in a climate of aging population, growing demand and expectation and tight finances, then we are going to have to come up with radically different solutions to the way we deliver care. This was an issue which was much discussed at the Foundation Trust Network (FTN) Annual Conference which I attended last week. It also came up in discussions with Chris Hopson, the Chief Executive of the FTN who visited the Trust just after the conference and met with senior members of our team. Chris has been CE of the FTN for a year and he has made a point of visiting many Foundation Trusts to understand what is happening at the front line. He observed that the trusts which are getting into difficulty were the smaller to medium sized, with proportionately lower levels of elective activity while managing more than one site. Chris was highly complementary about our achievements to date and the initiatives ASPH is taking to meet the challenges:

- The strategic thinking behind our preferred partnership with Royal Surrey County Hospital FT with the potential for integration of services;
- The work we are doing to improve our emergency services, especially the new Ambulatory care unit and the OPAL service for frail and elderly patients;
- Our emphasis on cultural and leadership development. Chris observed that he has not seen another Trust giving such a high priority to this.

Overall Chris's visit gave us reassurance regarding our strategy and more immediate plans.

Performance

We continue to perform well across a number of areas. This is recognised in our recent positive ratings by Monitor and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) both of whom have implemented new systems of risk rating this month. In both cases we have achieved the highest ratings:

- From Monitor a Green Governance rating,

- From CQC the lowest risk band of 6.

We are all delighted that we have achieved a whole year with no hospital acquired MRSA infections. This is the second time we have done this and puts us in an elite group of trusts who have achieved this significant milestone. In addition we are joint top performers in England with the lowest levels of CDiff infections.

We continue to perform well in the Family and Friends Test with results from inpatients and A&E attenders putting us broadly in the middle of the pack of acute trusts. The Test has been rolled out to the Maternity Department from the start of this month and we look forward to seeing the results of this. As well as the simple scoring, the tests give us very valuable feedback from patients helping us to highlight areas for improvement.

Governors and Members

Governor elections: At the time of writing this report we are awaiting the results of the Governor elections which are due on 25th October. A full list of the results will be circulated to the meeting. I would like to congratulate all our re-elected and newly elected Governors.

During the month, Governors met with the Divisional Directors and Deputy Medical Director to understand Trust issues from a clinical perspective. They met with Louise McKenzie, Director of Workforce Transformation and Sue Ells, Non-Executive Director, to understand more about our cultural and leadership development programmes. There was also a meeting of Governors and Directors to discuss and review the Trust's strategy.

Members were invited to two meetings during the month:

- the Research Open day showcased the research activity within the Trust, its importance and potential;
- the Members' meeting on *A Career in the NHS* was an opportunity for members of our staff to share their experiences with local school and college students interested in a clinical or non-clinical career in the NHS.

Staff

We have held a successful Pride in Therapies Day and a Consultants Conference. Both of these were new events which we hope to make a regular feature of the Trust's future calendar.

This month we are extending a warm welcome to the c50 new nurses we have recruited from Portugal. They will be working in roles across the Trust improving our staffing on wards and many other areas. A lot of work has gone into making them welcome to the Trust and to the area, helping them to settle into their new home.

We have appointed two new Vascular Surgeons and one new Urology Surgeon:

Magdy Moawad (Vascular)
Barun Majumder (Vascular)
Sachin Agrawal (Urology)

On behalf of the Trust I would like to congratulate Brenda Sampson from Paediatrics Outpatients who has completed 30 years working for the NHS, the majority of which has been at St Peter's Hospital.

Over 100 colleagues, patients, friends and family attended the Memorial Service for Dr Sakunthala Seelan who died recently. The service was led by Rev Judith Allford and was an opportunity for all to celebrate Dr Seelan's service and friendship.

At Ashford Hospital we held a memorial service for Frederick Willett MBE who was Hospital Administrator of Ashford Hospital for c.15 years during the 1970s and 80s. Many former colleagues attended along with current staff. Simon Bhadye, Chairman of the Ashford League of Friends, led the tributes.

Other events

I was delighted to attend the opening of the new Cardiac Unit at St Peter's Hospital. This state of the art facility puts us among the top hospitals in the country for cardiology care. It will be run as a partnership with Inhealth who have made a considerable investment in the facility. This demonstrates the power of a private partnership with the NHS which benefits patients. The opening was done by eminent cardiologist Professor Douglas Chamberlain and the Mayor of Runnymede, Councillor Yvonna Lay.

We also welcomed Deborah DiSanzo CEO of Philips Healthcare worldwide to mark the installation of the first equipment under the Managed Equipment Service contract between ASPH and Phillips. Deborah was accompanied by Neil Mesher, Managing Director of Philips Healthcare UK and Ireland and together they helped us to formally open the first room which has been equipped under the contract. This is a major joint initiative between ourselves and Philips which has the potential to transform our radiology service over the next few years.

October also saw our much awaited self check-in service going live in Ashford hospital starting in the Children's Dept, the Eye Clinic and the Topaz Community Midwife service and now rolled out to the main Outpatients Dept. We are already seeing a substantial improvement for patients with less waiting and queuing. It is planned that kiosks will be installed in St Peter's hospital later this year.

Congratulations to our catering teams who achieved top 5 star food hygiene ratings in all their services across both sites.

Aileen McLeish
Chairman
October 2013