

TRUST BOARD
24 September 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:	17 September 2015
Decision:	To Receive

Chairman's report

Proposed Merger with Royal Surrey County Hospital Foundation Trust

Members of both boards were delighted to receive such a positive endorsement from the Competition and Markets Authority when they cleared our proposed merger. A great deal of work has gone into answering the questions. It has been a long protracted process and it is a tribute to the teams at both ASPH and Royal Surrey that we have come through with a positive result. It is also important that the NHS as a whole learns lessons from this experience and I am very pleased that Monitor (the Health Sector regulator) has offered to lead on a reflection on the process.

We have held a range of meetings internally to inform staff on the next steps. In addition external communication will start to increase with a more extensive programme of public engagement being drawn up to kick off in the event that both Boards accept the updated plan. Our stakeholder panel met to review and advise on the plans. I met with the Patient Panel Group at Stanwell Road Surgery and had a good discussion around the benefits of the merger.

Now that the restrictions have been removed by the CMA, teams from ASPH and Royal Surrey have started to meet again and reinvigorate the process. The next critical milestone is the November Board meetings of both Trusts when the updated plans will be presented and a decision will be made whether to commit to progressing with the merger.

Better Care Better Health

This is our joint project with the North West Surrey Commissioning Group, looking at how we can deliver sustainable health services for our local population. A great deal of work has gone into analysing individual patient contacts within the hospital, which has then informed clinical discussions involving GPs and hospital professionals, leading to a range of proposals which will improve the care and experience of patients as well as reducing healthcare costs. The details of these proposals are being checked, before presenting to both Boards for approval.

The project has an oversight steering group which includes Non-Executives and Directors and which helps steer the project. Early analysis has also been shared with the Trust's Governors, and a further briefing is planned in the next two months.

Performance

Our major challenge remains our A&E performance. During the summer we have seen periods of exceptional demand which has placed huge demands on our staff throughout the emergency care pathway. I would like to thank staff for all they are doing to maintain high standards of care notwithstanding the pressures.

Turning around our performance is a key priority of the Board. We have an improvement plan agreed with our regulator Monitor, who are placing us under a lot of intense scrutiny. Please see the separate report in the Board papers on our current performance and the actions we are taking to get back in line with target.

Governors and members

We had a Council of Governors meeting earlier this month. The main topics of discussion were the A&E performance and the proposed merger.

We held an excellent event for members on the subject of Dementia. This was well attended with many people sharing their stories of experiences of dementia among their family and friends.

Thank you to Bhupendra Vyas, public member for Hounslow, who has stepped down from the Council of governors due to ill health. There will now be a by-election for the newly formed Hounslow and Richmond constituency. This will be held at the same time as elections for the Runnymede and Windsor constituency and for two staff constituencies: Clinical and Allied Health Professionals. Nominations for these elections are all due to be in by 5 October.

Staff

At the end of August we said farewell to **Lorraine Knight** who had stepped in on an interim basis to be our Chief Operating officer. Congratulations to **Bob Peet** who has been appointed Chief Operating Officer and to **Valerie Bartlett** who has taken on the role of Director of Strategy and Transformation including leading on the proposed merger.

I chaired three panels for consultant appointments. We appointed **Dr Amitabh Naik** as a gastroenterologist, offers have been made to candidates for Stroke Medicine, and Geriatrics.

At the end of September people from across the Trust joined together to wish farewell to our retiring Chaplain **Judith Allford**. Judith has been a recognisable figure across the Trust for last 20 years, proving a consistently high service to patients, their families, the staff and the wider community of the Trust. It is testament to her, how many former colleagues made a special trip into the Trust to share in her celebrations. The sentiments on the day were captured in the message sent by the Bishop of Guildford:

“I’m so sorry that I can’t join you for Judith’s retirement event at the hospital, but I wanted to add my thanks to Judith for her immensely hard work at Ashford and St Peter’s over the past 20 years. A really good chaplain makes a huge difference to the spirit and morale of a hospital - and Judith is a really good chaplain. From all I’ve heard, her support of patients and families has been exceptional - and the pastoral and spiritual support she has offered the staff team has been outstanding too.

I look forward to welcoming Judith to a new role as Canon of Guildford Cathedral in the months to come - and meanwhile wish Ashford and St Peter’s every success, not least as you look to appoint Judith’s successor. A hard act to follow, indeed!” Bishop Andrew.

Other staff retiring in the last two months included **Jan Strand** having spent 21 years in Purchasing and Supply, Senior Nurse **Lisbeth Dean** after 6 years and Therapies lead **Marie Canden** after 11 years with the Trust. I would also like to mention **Diana Manthorpe** who is stepping down as an honorary Lay Chaplain after an over 40 year association with St Peter's Hospital and the Trust. Diana started as a nurse, then left to join the teaching profession, returning as a Non-Executive Director, subsequently becoming a Chaplain and serving for a period as a staff Governor.

This year for the "***In your shoes***" week I was shadowed by Sally Greensmith one of our project managers. Sally accompanied me to a range of meetings hosted by NHS providers which gave her some insight to what is happening across the NHS as a whole and the role the Chairmen play in looking after the interests of patients and the public.

Nominations

Congratulations to the Trust's Facilities team who have been shortlisted for Facilities team of the year in the Building Better Healthcare awards. The Trust has also been shortlisted in two categories in the annual Health Service Journal awards: well done to Suzanne Rankin who has been shortlisted in the Chief Executive of the year category and also to the Board for being shortlisted in the Board leadership category.

Other

I represented the Trust at both the Egham Royal Show and at the pre-show reception

I attended a meeting of the southern Chairs group, where we shared a discussion on the current financial pressures of the NHS.

I attended the NHS Providers Annual lecture, this year given by former head of the NHS, David Nicholson.

Along with Suzanne Rankin and lead governor David Frank I am attending the Royal Surrey County Annual Members Meeting this evening.