

**'You matter, we care'**

Trust Board Meeting (Part 1)	Date: 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2014
------------------------------	-----------------------------------

<b>Title:</b>	Chair's report
<b>Item:</b>	BD/13/359

<b>Executive Director lead and presenter</b>	Chair
<b>Report author(s)</b>	Assistant Company Secretary

<b>History:</b>	<i>n/a</i>
-----------------	------------

<b>This report is for:</b>	
Decision	
Discussion	
To Note	X

<b>Executive Summary of key issues</b>
The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the work of the Chair during the preceding month.

<b>This report addresses these Strategic Priorities:</b>	
We will deliver the best care	X
We will support and develop our staff	X
We will continually improve what we do	X
We will use our resources wisely	X
We will be future focussed	X

## 1. Review

During the last month I have participated in two Quality Improvement visits, chaired two Employment Panels and one Mental Health Act Panel.

I also attended a Foundation Trust network event where the issue of NHS funding and viability was the main topic. It was suggested that around 25% of foundation trusts would run deficits this year and that this would increase significantly next year. The ability of the system to deliver upon the '20 billion' plan was considered not to be feasible. It was discussed that Acute Trusts were cross-subsidising between A & E and elective services and that completion rules were preventing the requisite solutions to some of the above.

In addition a survey was presented indicating that the reason given for the funding differentiator between Acute and Mental Health Trusts, namely the staff increments following on from the Francis report, was factually incorrect.

## 2. Governance

The Board continues to strive for Foundation Trust status as a means of describing the future direction for its staff, users and community.

Progress on quality improvements, as evidenced by CQC have resulted in the Trust being selected for an Inspector of Hospitals' review in Quarter 1. This is an important stage in demonstrating that the quality agenda, which is at the top of the Board priority list, can be seen as being embedded in all areas of the Trust.

As we move through the inspection we will ensure that establishment of a council of governors is scheduled to elicit the input of our membership to further the progress of the Trust.

With the departure of Alison Paine we have a Non-Executive Director vacancy which is being advertised by the TDA.

To strengthen the Board I am proposing we add an Associate NED to add strategic, financial and corporate skills to the Board and a paper later on the agenda attends to this.

I am pleased to announce that Ruth Brunt has taken over as Chair of our Employment Committee (ESEC) where the work on appraisals/supervision and sickness/absence will be reinforced with scrutiny of our staffing levels ensuring that our organisational development strategy begins to show operational improvements.

I am also pleased that Peaches Golding has taken over as Chair for Charitable Funds where the drive to encourage donations and wise use of funds will continue.

A revised committee membership list has been developed for the transitional period and this is attached as a later agenda item.

At a Board seminar we have considered the Trust's Equality and Diversity Strategy and are developing a strategy which underlines the Trust's aspiration to recognise diversity as a strategic asset.

Continuing Board development is taking place including a training session on the appeals process, consideration of the instigation of an externally managed appraisal process and a review of committee best practice.

### 3. Conclusion

As we move to close the financial year we do so with a strong financial performance underpinned by a rigorous focus upon quality. For this I thank both the executive and locality management for the execution and my NEDs for their diligence in progressing this.

I hold a strong view that our robust governance arrangements, in particular the developing roles of committees, is a foundation upon which we can continue to build.

As I write we are in the midst of the Bristol tender presentations. My thanks go to the Bristol team for the way they have developed the service over the past year and the way they have multiplexed the day to day delivery with the production of a bid which deserves success.