

Board of Directors	Guy's and St Thomas'  NHS Foundation Trust
Chairman's Board Report	27 January 2016 BDA/16/02

This paper is for:		Sponsor:	Chairman
Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Author:	
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reviewed by:	
Noting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CEO*	
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	ED*	
		Board Committee*	
		TME*	
		Other*	

* Specify

On Tuesday 19 January we were able to announce the appointment of Amanda Pritchard as our new Chief Executive, following Sir Ron Kerr's decision to stand down from that role last autumn. This followed a robust and thorough recruitment process, including consideration of a strong field of potential candidates, culminating in the approval of Amanda's appointment by the Council of Governors at a meeting on 18 January.

Amanda has, of course, been Chief Operating Officer at the Trust since April 2012 and Acting Chief Executive since October 2015. It has been a pleasure to watch her both make an outstanding contribution in these roles, whilst continuing to develop her leadership and managerial skills. I am, as I have said publicly, confident that she will bring the talent, energy and vision needed to ensure that our already very successful organisation is able to respond effectively to the significant challenges facing both the Trust and the NHS over the next period - on behalf of the patients and communities that we serve.

I am also personally delighted – for the NHS as well as for the Trust – that Amanda's appointment signals the emergence of a new generation of outstanding leadership talent in the NHS.

Since our last Board meeting, the Spending Review settlement for the NHS has been announced – with the welcome news that planned growth in NHS expenditure has been front loaded, relieving some of the overall budgetary pressures for 2016/17. Associated planning guidance has been issued on behalf of NHS England and NHS Improvement, the implications of which we will be discussing at our meeting. These include the need for the Trust to move at pace both to seize opportunities arising from the direction of policy set out in the planning guidance and to make further significant improvements in our productivity and efficiency, while meeting key performance standards as a pre-requisite for accessing central funds to support business development.

In recent weeks I have had the opportunity to visit a number of colleagues in Essentia and to be reminded of the wide variety of roles they carry out for the Trust and the huge contribution they make to our services. At Lambeth Community Care Centre I visited the award winning gardens which offer a therapeutic oasis for patients who use that facility and I met a team of people who provide facilities and estates management support to a number of community settings. At the

Guy's site I met colleagues providing housekeeping, waste management and accommodation services. I was impressed, as always, by the commitment and skills of the people and teams that I met. Colleagues in Essentia also, of course, led for the Trust on the design, contract management and delivery of the splendidly refurbished East Wing at St Thomas' – a major capital project whose completion we formally celebrated on 20 January.

The Trust celebrated the run up to Christmas in its usual way, including the traditional Trust carol service which I attended; and this report provides me with the opportunity to mark on behalf of the Board all those who worked so hard over Christmas and the New Year period to maintain the services of the Trust and to care for our patients. We also held our annual long service ceremony in that period; and it was once again heart-warming to hear the outstanding record of achievements of colleagues who have given so much to our hospital and community services over the years and, again, in such a variety of roles.

We also held before Christmas an "accountability" session with the Council of Governors, where the Trust Board responds to a number of (highly pertinent and challenging!) questions put to it by the Governors. The Trust also hosted a stimulating conference on public and patient involvement, involving a number of representatives from statutory and voluntary organisations and patient groups – helping us to hold a mirror up to our progress as a Trust in improving the way we involve and engage patients in their care.

Recent meetings of the KHP Board (one of which Sir Ron Kerr attended on my behalf) have focussed on the development of the Institutes Programme, the need to invigorate and accelerate the 'mind and body' across all four partners, and developments in the use of metrics for value based healthcare in the partner organisations.

Finally, I should record two further developments affecting the St Thomas' site (which will be discussed at a meeting of the South Bank Partnership on 26 January, which I will be attending). First, we heard shortly before Christmas the welcome news that sufficient funding has now been raised to support the installation and maintenance of the statue of Mary Seacole. The timing of the installation and the associated ceremony has yet to be fixed.

Second, I have written to Transport for London raising on behalf of the Trust concerns about planned developments for Westminster Bridge Road and its environs. In particular the introduction of new cycle lanes – and the associated changes to the siting of bus stops outside St Thomas’ - have raised concerns on our part about the safety implications for our patients and staff who access the hospital by bus and on foot. I have received a response confirming that our concerns will be considered following the consultation period – and an explanation for the proposals as they stand. At their invitation, I am seeking a meeting with Transport for London to follow up our concerns.