


Board of Directors	 Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	
Chairman's Board Report	25 April 2018	BDA/18/07

This paper is for:		Sponsor:	Hugh Taylor	
Decision		Author:	Hugh Taylor	
Discussion		Reviewed by:		
Noting	X	CEO*		
Information		ED*		
		Board Committee*		
		TME*		
		Other		

It is now clear that the Trust has, again, come through a difficult year with our financial position intact and with an impressive record of achievement. That is a huge credit to all the staff of the organisation. Recent weeks have been particularly testing, as flu levels remained high and A and E attendances reached record levels. As will become clear at our meeting, the challenge to achieve our financial and operational targets in 2018/19 will be even tougher – in the community and in our hospitals. But our ambitions remain high; and if we can continue to get the basics right and keep restless in our search for finding ways to improve our services we can make further progress in delivering them this year.

Since our last meeting we have had the privilege of welcoming both the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to the Trust. On 18 January the Duke of Cambridge visited Evelina London Children's Hospital to celebrate the national rollout of a scheme, 'Step into Health', to help ex-servicemen and women to find employment in the NHS. His Royal Highness met with veterans who are now working at Guy's and St Thomas and heard how mentoring and work experience placements organised through Step into Health has helped veterans to go on and secure permanent jobs. The following month we were honoured to welcome the Duchess of Cambridge to the Trust to the launch of a global campaign to empower and support nurses. Nursing Now is a three year campaign aiming to raise the profile and status of nursing across the world. Her Royal Highness met nurses and families on Snow Leopard Ward, a long-term ventilation unit at Evelina London Children's Hospital. The Duchess found out about nursing careers from the specialist nurse-led team on Snow Leopard, who help to train carers and relatives how to use ventilation equipment safely to prepare them for when their child is home.

We were also delighted recently to welcome Steve Brine, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, to the Trust to visit the Rare Diseases Centre as part of the wider activities here at the Trust and more generally to mark Rare Diseases Day. This was an excellent opportunity to highlight this range of highly specialised, world leading services provided by the Trust which offer a true life line to the patients and families they support.

Since our last meeting I have had the opportunity to visit other areas of the Trust as well, including the new Evelina London facilities in the South Wing at St Thomas'. In National Apprenticeship Week I joined colleagues

from the Council of Governors to meet apprentices in our engineering and painting and decorating workshops and on the reception of one our outpatient clinics.

I'm afraid I had to cheer on the Trust's contribution to NHS Sustainability Day from the sidelines this year; but I was pleased to represent the Trust at the event hosted in the Robens Suite at Guy's to mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of NHS England's Sustainability Development Unit (with which I was proud to be associated in the Department of Health) and the retirement of its remarkable Director, David Pencheon.

I have had bilateral meetings with my opposite numbers in King's Health Partners, Roger Paffard, Chair of South London and Maudsley Trust, Ian Smith, the newly appointed interim Chair of King's College Hospital and Professor Ed Bryne, Principal of King's College London; and we met as a Board of King's Health Partners, where the main agenda item was to receive a (very stimulating) presentation from the Abdominal Liver, Renal, Urology, Transplant, Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Surgery Clinical Academic Group. It was a pleasure last month to welcome members of the Trust and other members of the public to our first health seminar of the year – on hearing loss. It was encouragingly well attended; and, as always, the presentations – on this occasion from two of our consultant surgeons – and the subsequent question and answer session were very well received.

Colleagues will recall from our last meeting that the Trust was caught up in the publicity attending a fundraising event held by the President's Club of which the Evelina London was a potential beneficiary. With our partners at Guy's and St Thomas' Charity and King's College London we declined to accept donations from this event, as I indicated at our last meeting. However, I should record that, following a series of discussions in which I was closely involved, we have established, in consultation with the Charity Commission, that our Charity should retain on our behalf historic donations from the President's Club. This was a difficult and sensitive episode from which we all learned. None of the difficulties associated with it should diminish our deep gratitude to all those individuals and organisations who respond so generously to our fundraising efforts – which are so crucial to the future development of the services we provide to our patients.

Finally, all of us here at the Trust will have paused for reflection on Thursday 22 March as we recalled the tragic events from a year ago when lives were lost and people were injured in the terrorist incident outside St Thomas' on Westminster Bridge. Some of us were able to meet for a brief, deeply moving memorial service in the grounds of St Thomas'. The scars from such an event run deep. But so do our memories of the courage, skill and humanity shown on that day – qualities, values to be found, for those who look, every day in this remarkable organisation.