

Board of Directors	Guy's and St Thomas'  NHS Foundation Trust
Chairman's Board Report	27 April 2016 

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*	

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These are difficult and uncertain times for the NHS. As I write this report, this Trust is making preparations for the 48 hours of industrial action by junior doctors which, if it goes ahead, will co-incide with our Board meeting. At that meeting we will be reporting on our operational plan for the next 12 months – which carries unprecedented levels of risk because of unresolved issues relating to the funding of our services and because of the scale of the efficiency and productivity challenge we have set ourselves. To the extent that we can face the next 12 months with confidence – which I believe we should – it is because of the values of our staff and the extraordinary levels of commitment, resilience, skill and care which they demonstrate day in day out. This was borne out by the report of the Care Quality Commission which has just been published; and at the subsequent Quality Summit which I attended, the evident commitment of our staff to the Trust and to the delivery of high quality care to our patients featured in the comments of the inspection team and of our local stakeholders. The staff of the Trust are indeed to be commended on what is, overall, the excellent outcome of the inspection.

Since our last Board meeting, we have welcomed a number of distinguished visitors to the Trust. The Chief Nurse and I welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for their first visit to the Trust when they met an inspirational mental health campaigner as part of their focus on suicide prevention and support for those bereaved by suicide. Lord Prior, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for NHS Productivity visited the Trust twice: first in the company of Lord Carter to meet our procurement team and showcase an example of their work on the day of the launch of Lord Carter's report on improving productivity in the NHS; and second to visit the Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) in the Guy's Tower accompanied by Dame Sally Davies, the Government's Chief Medical Officer. The latter visit was particularly timely, as we are now in the process of applying for renewed accreditation and funding as a BRC: the importance of which for our ambitions as a centre of excellence for research and leading edge clinical practice could scarcely be overstated. Ben Gummer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care Quality also visited the Trust last month to see at first hand some of the examples of innovative practice in our maternity services. These regular Ministerial visits are further testimony to the quality of our staff – and, as these examples show, across a wide range of functions.

We are also fortunate as a Trust in the support of our local MPs. Kate Hoey joined us for the service to mark the re-opening of the St Thomas' Chapel: gloriously restored and renovated thanks in large part to the generosity of the Guy's and St Thomas' Charity and the many individuals and organisations that contributed to the fund-raising effort led by our Hospitalier and Head of Spiritual Health Care, Mia Hilborn. Neil Coyle carried out the official opening of the new Bermondsey Centre at Guy's Hospital: a key development in the expansion and integration of our services in dermatology and related specialist fields.

Last month I visited the resource centre at the Tate Library in North Lambeth for people with visual impairment. The centre works closely with our low vision unit; and it was inspirational to meet people whose lives were being transformed through the ability to access sophisticated IT and other resources, which they could never afford, to support their reading capacity. For me the visit also re-inforced the concerns that we area as a Trust, supported by colleagues in the South Bank Partnership (a meeting of which I attended on the Trust's behalf last week) and the South Bank Forum, have expressed about the proposal by Transport for London to replace the bus stops outside St Thomas' – notably the extremely busy one on Westminster Bridge – with 'floating bus stops'. This means that patients and carers entering St Thomas' from the bus

stops will have to cross a cycle path before doing so. Since our last Board meeting I have met TfL officials – who said they would consider a number of technical modifications to the proposed floating bus stop on Westminster Bridge. However we are not satisfied with either the process for the consultation of the proposed changes, or that our fundamental concerns about safety have been addressed. We have entered a formal complaint under TfL’s complaints procedure and are considering what further action we should take if we do not get a satisfactory response.

Last month I welcomed members of the Trust and of the general public to the first in the new series of Trust seminars. Excellent presentations were given on the treatment of prostate cancer, followed by a lively question and answer session hosted by our Lead Governor, John Porter. The seminar was well attended and the feedback was extremely positive.

I chaired a meeting of the King’s Health Partners (KHP) Education Council; and the Trust hosted a joint meeting of the Council of Governors of the Trusts of KHP. A recent meeting of the Joint Boards of KHP (which I was unable to attend) reviewed progress on the proposals for cardiovascular and haematology institutes – which are likely to be considered by our Board Committees over the coming weeks and then at the July meeting of the Board.

This meeting will be the last full Board Committee attended by Diane Summers and by Frank Nestle. Diane has made an outstanding contribution to the Trust as a non executive director over the last 8 years. She has been active on a range of Board Committees, most recently as the Chair of the Quality and Performance Committee. She has provided counsel to me as Vice Chair of the Board. She has provided invaluable support, encouragement and insight to colleagues across the Trust; and she has been a powerful advocate of the core Trust value of putting patients first. We will miss her contribution hugely. The Nominations Committee has established a process to appoint a successor to the vacancy she will leave on the Board.

I paid tribute to Frank Nestle’s contribution at our last Board meeting. It will be a pleasure to welcome his successor, Professor Reza Ravavi to this first meeting of the Board.