

TRUST BOARD

Date of Meeting: 08/03/2011		Enclosure: 3
		Agenda Item No: 6
Title of Report: Chairman's Report		
Aims: This report provides an update of the Chairman's business, activities and matters that the Chairman wishes to bring to the attention of the Trust Board.		
Summary: The matters mentioned in this paper are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trust Merger & Acquisition Plans ▪ Board Cycle of Business 2011/12 ▪ Non Executive Director vacancy 		
Specific implications for consideration (Financial/Workforce/Risk/Legal/Race Equality etc):		
Financial	No specific implications.	
Workforce/E&D	Informs the Board of the process for the need to recruit to a Non Executive Director Vacancy.	
Recommendations: The Trust Board is asked to note the contents of this report.		
Document previously approved by: Report directly to the Trust Board.		
Prepared by: Ramona Duguid Company Secretary	Presented by: Mike Little Chairman	

**TRUST BOARD
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
MARCH 2011**

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of those matters the Chairman wishes to bring to the attention of the Board.

2. TRUST MERGER & ACQUISITION PLANS

Since the last meeting a key strategic decision was taken by the Board in relation to the Trust's Foundation Trust application.

The Government White Paper published in July 2010 sets out the time frames for all NHS Trusts to achieve Foundation Trust (FT) status by 2013/14. The Trust has been working towards developing a sound business strategy and long term financial model, which are fundamental to a successful FT application.

In February, the Board discussed and carefully considered the key challenges facing the organisation and wider health economy and the impact this has on the Trust being able to achieve FT status within the timeframe required. It is important to highlight the number one priority of the Trust Board, which was also discussed in relation to this decision, in ensuring the Trust continues to provide quality health care for the local population of North Cumbria.

Whilst our preference would have been to continue as an independent Trust, delivering services for the people of north Cumbria, this is not a feasible option within national timetable for achieving FT and the financial constraints the organisation and health economy face going forward.

The Board decision to seek a partner for merger or acquisition to deliver the services we currently provide will form a key part of the Board's business going forward into 2011/12.

The Board is committed to finding a partner organisation that will continue to drive forward improvements in patient care and continue to develop hospital services for the local population of north Cumbria.

It is important to stress that whilst progressing with a formal merger or acquisition and the significant work this will involve, that the Board also

continues to monitor the performance and effective day to day running of our two hospital services to ensure we continue to put patient care first.

A further update on the current status of the merger and acquisition plans has been included in the Chief Executive's report.

3. UPDATE ON BOARD CYCLE OF BUSINESS 2011/12

The cycle of business for 2011/12 is currently being reviewed by the Company Secretary to ensure the key strategic issues facing the Board and wider organisation going forward are scheduled into our core business throughout the year.

This will be presented to the Board at the April meeting and will also include a resume of the business which has been achieved against the Board's 2010/11 cycle of business.

4. NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VACANCY

It is with both regret and congratulations that I have to announce that Professor Suzanne Cholerton has unfortunately had to step down from her role as Non Executive Director of the Trust. Professor Cholerton has been successful in gaining a promotion within her full time professional role.

Accordingly, arrangements are being made to make a permanent replacement to this vacancy and I will continue to update the Trust Board on progress.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Trust Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

Mike Little
CHAIRMAN