

**TRUST BOARD**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 30/4/2013	<b>Agenda Item No:</b> 1	<b>Enclosure:</b> 1
<b>Intended Outcome:</b>		
<b>For noting</b>	<b>For information</b>	<b>For decision</b> ✓
<b>Title of Report:</b> Chairman's Overview		
<b>Aims:</b>		
<p>To consider the key business of the Trust Board as it moves forward into the final stages of the Acquisition by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</p>		
<b>Executive Summary:</b>		
<p>On the merger with Northumbria Healthcare (NHFT), I can report that I have signed the revised Interim Management Agreement (IMA), which updates the IMA of last September for the arrival of the Trust Development Authority and discussions have started about revising the Heads of Agreement (for the same purpose) and will start shortly to complete the Transaction Agreement. The first meeting of our new Finance, Investment and Performance Committee on 22 April, in parallel to NHFT's Board structures, is another, modest step towards integration.</p> <p>As I reported last month, the NHFT has begun the induction of the (shadow) Governors for Cumbria, with introductory events in Carlisle on 21-22 March, and subsequently through a joint meeting with the existing Northumbria Governors in Hexham on 15 April, when they heard presentations about our new Heart Centre, about NHFT's orthopaedic service and about NHFT's various approaches to collecting patient feedback. There was also an excellent display of stands, to illustrate the range of the services available from our two Trusts. Within NCUH, we are considering what we can do to further that induction programme during the transition.</p> <p>I have continued to visit various services across our two sites, including the operating theatres and the outpatient services. So I have seen for myself how our high bed occupancy is limiting the efficient working of the theatres on both sites; and why the action plans to enhance patient flows, developed by the senior clinicians and recently publicised in the staff newsletter, are so important to improve the working environment for many parts of our hospitals. It is more important than ever that we engage constructively with our various partners in the Cumbrian health economy to tackle problems of capacity and the smooth handover of patients.</p> <p>My diary over the weeks ahead is now filling up with Consultant interview panels, as we embark on a more intensive period of recruitment. I regard that as one of the proverbial "green shoots of recovery", as we work to secure a more stable consultant workforce for the longer term.</p>		

But May will be a demanding month for this Trust, with the first visit, now announced for 7 May, of the Rapid Response Team from Sir Bruce Keogh's review of hospital mortality, and with the external review of our quality governance to be conducted by KPMG in mid-May. These two exercises come on top of an intense programme of work, aimed at tackling some fundamental problems in the performance of our Trust.

**Specific implications and links to the Trust's Strategic Aims:**

<b>We deliver excellent clinical outcomes along closely integrated pathways</b>	✓
<b>We provide excellent patient-centred services</b>	✓
<b>We deliver excellence in safety, quality and regulatory compliance</b>	✓
<b>We deliver efficient care and work within budgets</b>	✓

**Recommendations:**

Board members are requested to approve the report.

**Prepared by:**

Ian Gordon  
Interim Chairman

**Presented by:**

Ian Gordon  
Interim Chairman