

August 2011

Dear member,

I am pleased to report that the Hospital is continuing to meet its care and financial plans, with activity being brisk across the Hospital Trust in the first quarter of the new financial year. The NHS continues to experience uncertainty over the exact nature and pace of structural change and the financial squeeze demands sensible and careful savings to be progressed. We are already working closely with the local GP community to ensure that the commissioning of hospital and community services is as effective as possible in the future, as responsibility gradually shifts from the Primary Care Trust to the planned Clinical Commissioning Groups.

As I reported in my last newsletter, the proposed integration with Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust is progressing steadily. The risks and benefits are being weighed up and a formal proposal to the Department of Health and Monitor (the Foundation Trust regulator) will be prepared later this year. The key challenge is to ensure safe, effective and sustainable healthcare across the North Yorkshire and York communities, and we are examining how the integration of Trusts would support that crucial requirement. Doctors from both Trusts are actively working together to seek out opportunities to share best practice and to plan how to ensure the best clinical service is made available in the different community and hospital settings.

In support of this integration process, we are encouraging the public in Ryedale (where there is already a solid membership base) and the East Coast communities of Whitby, Scarborough and Bridlington to become Foundation Trust members, and indeed consider standing as Governors. Being a member is a way of expressing your support for the future of the NHS in our communities. Elections for Governor positions will take place towards the end of 2011 and you will receive information about this later in the year.

Some of you will be aware of the recently published Independent Review of Healthcare Services in North Yorkshire and York. This review contains no real surprises, but emphasises the challenge of how to meet growing demand for health services within a budget that is unlikely to increase much in the years ahead. It calls for an increased commitment to community hospitals and community-based care, both of which we have already expressed a clear desire to support.

The New Selby War Memorial Hospital has now opened and is a wonderful modern facility. The exact service configuration at and around Malton Hospital is under review, but the commissioners and the Trust are committed to ensuring that this hospital is a vibrant and effectively-used facility at the heart of the Ryedale community. Since taking on responsibility for most community healthcare activities in April, the Trust is working hard to ensure quality of care is kept high and that services are well integrated with the acute hospital in York.

One example of this is the current project to rationalise and strengthen the urgent care available in York by reviewing how out-of-hours services, the walk-in centre and the emergency department can become more integrated. An important part of this review is to include the views of patients and the public on what improvements can be made to enhance the patient experience. The Trust's Patient Experience Team would like to hear from recent users of the Emergency Department to take part in a focus group planned for the end of September 2011. If you have accessed the Emergency Department at any time during 2011, and are able to attend a focus group, please contact: patientexperienceteam@york.nhs.uk or telephone 01904 721709 for further details.

There is a vacancy for a lay member of the North and East Yorkshire Research and Development Committee. This is a voluntary position but expenses will be paid. The Committee meets for two hours once a month. To see the detailed advertisement visit: <http://www.northyorksresearch.nhs.uk/news/>

The efforts of fundraisers in our communities continue to be highly valued. The Friends organisations at each hospital continue their good work, which is much appreciated. Support for these groups, as well as other fundraising activities, is being undertaken by the main York Teaching Hospital Charity. To find out more visit www.york.nhs.uk/fundraising or contact Lucy Watson, Fundraising Manager, on 01904 721737.

Those of you that have visited The York Hospital by car will know that we experience quite significant traffic congestion between 4:30pm and 5:30pm as visitors, staff and patients all leave the site at the same time when Wigginton Road is at its busiest. As part of a range of measures to alleviate this, the afternoon visiting period has moved to an earlier time slot of 2:00pm to 3:30pm. The evening slot will remain as 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

Finally, some dates for your diary. Our annual open event at The York Hospital is imminent and we would be delighted to see you there on 14 September from 2:30pm. The Trust's Annual General Meeting is also taking place that day at 5:30pm, and all are welcome to hear how the Trust has performed and our perspective on future challenges and developments. Please see the enclosed information flyer for more detail about the event.

We also have two more YorkTalk presentations planned. On 26 October 2011 Alastair Hardy (specialist registrar in ophthalmology) will talk about current and emerging issues in ophthalmology. This has been rearranged from 24 August.

On 30 November Dr John Coyle (consultant physician) and Carol Croser (advanced nurse specialist) will talk about stroke services at the Trust.

Both of these presentations will be held from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the postgraduate lecture theatre on 5th floor of the admin block at The York Hospital. If you would like to book a place for either presentation please contact Heather Millard on 01904 721855 or heather.millard@york.nhs.uk

Thank you for continuing to support your hospital and its community healthcare services. Please get in touch using the details below if you have any comments or questions.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Rose, Chairman

Contact us...If you have any comments or questions, please email alan.rose@york.nhs.uk. If your address or any of your other details have changed, or if you have any questions about membership, you can call the membership office on 01904 725233. You can also contact the governors via this email address: yhs-tr.yorkhospitalgovernors@nhs.net

Find out more...visit www.york.nhs.uk