

January 2013

Dear Member,

Trust news

Since writing to you in the summer, you will be aware that the integration of Scarborough and York Trusts has formally begun. I am pleased to report that the complex process of weaving services and organisations into one entity is proceeding as planned. This will of course continue over the coming years, and as the NHS continues to evolve and reorganise it means that we can never be completely static if we are to be successful.

The measures of patient care, quality, safety and experience are many and complex, but by far the majority of these are in good order and at planned level, although as I have stated before we are not complacent and always seek ways to improve them. We should congratulate the Trust's staff, which now includes over 8,000 people at 10 main hospital locations and across our communities, for the way they are working together to support the integration and, where appropriate, adapting the way they work.

The finances of the Trust are on plan, which is no mean feat at a time of considerable austerity across the entire NHS. Cost improvements are continually sought throughout the Trust, but each initiative is rigorously examined to test that there is no detrimental impact on safety and, if at all possible, the quality of service provided. Our regulators are watching this issue with considerable focus.

The changing NHS

You will also be aware of the ongoing discussions to address the financial shortfalls that have constrained the North Yorkshire health economy for many years. The area has suffered from the structuring of the formula that provides central government funding to the local health service. The problem, put at its simplest, is that the increasing demands on the service of an aging population (we have more older citizens than is typical), and of our relative rurality, are not taken into account in this funding mechanism. Considerable pressure is being applied at Westminster to alter this evident "unfairness", but it is unlikely to be quickly resolved. In the meantime, the commissioners of our healthcare, with the support of providers such as this Trust, are engaged in detailed discussions to consider safe and practical adjustments to the various services provided, to help reduce the demands on the system and to deliver services more cost-effectively. You will hear about these proposals, and those of any significance will be consulted upon.

This year we will continue our increasing focus on working with our colleagues in primary care, firstly, to streamline the commissioning of services through the new Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), secondly, to enhance the ways in which community health services are delivered. This is a trend that is likely to be seen nationwide.

New faces

The Trust has two new Non-executive Directors serving on the Board, each living in the Scarborough area. Michael Keane and Jennifer Adams joined the Board in September. In addition, as you will know, we have a number of new Governors, elected by staff and public members, and some appointed by other local organisations. All Governors have a role in holding the Trust Board to account and being assured that the decisions taken by the Trust are appropriate. Each year there will be a number of Governor seats coming available for election and, if elections are being held in your constituency, you will receive information about this.

The current publicly elected Governors are as follows:

Public Governors			
Governor name	Constituency	Governor name	Constituency
Paul Baines	City of York	Ann Bolland*	Selby
Margaret Jackson*	City of York	Andrew Butler*	Selby
Helen Mackman	City of York	Nevil Parkinson	Selby
James Porteous	City of York	Jeanette Anness*	Ryedale & East Yorkshire
Penelope Worsely*	City of York	Sheila Miller*	Ryedale & East Yorkshire
Terry Atherton*	Bridlington	Brian Thompson	Ryedale & East Yorkshire
James Carder*	Bridlington	Jane Dalton	Hambleton District
Sue Wellington*	Scarborough	Stephen Hinchcliffe*	Whitby
David Wheeler*	Scarborough	*newly elected Governor	

A thank you to our supporters

The Trust receives excellent support in a variety of ways through the various site-based Friends groups, many volunteers, and a host of specific charitable organisations across the communities we serve. I am aware that many of you are also members of one or more of these groups. Thank you for the huge contribution these efforts bring to the effective delivery of our services and particularly to the experience of patients and visitors at the various sites.

The next couple of years will be extremely challenging and will include a variety of changes in our services. We appreciate your support for the Trust, demonstrated through your membership. We welcome constructive comments and feedback on any aspect of our services.

Communicating with members

As a result of the merger our membership has changed significantly, and we are taking this opportunity to review how we keep our members up to date. We recognise that not all of our localities are the same, so we will be tailoring our communications depending on the issues facing each locality, and also to members' specific needs and interests. This means that you will hear from us about specific meetings and events in your area, or we may ask for your views relating to services where you have told us you have a particular interest. Those members that have given us an email address may also receive more regular updates. We will also send an annual newsletter to coincide with the publication of our Annual Report and Accounts, giving members a round-up of the year. Those members with access to the internet can find out more by reading Staff Matters, our monthly newsletter for staff containing 12 pages of stories and updates.

We are always looking for ways to improve our communications with members, so if you have any suggestions, please contact the communications team: communications.teamyork@york.nhs.uk or in writing to communications team, second floor admin block, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Rose
Chairman