Vision for travel

THE TRUST has unveiled its new five-year travel plan for staff, patients and visitors. It is the second such plan and aims to build on the successes of the first.

Alison Hughes, director of strategy and facilities, explains: “There are two reasons for introducing the new plan. Firstly, we have to reduce our ‘secondary’ carbon footprint – and travel is a major contribution to this – but secondly, we have made a commitment to City of York Council to meet certain targets set out in the plan.”

One aim of the plan is to reduce single occupant car usage by staff from 53% to 44%.

The plan focuses on three areas for improvement. These are:
- Reducing reliance on single user car journeys.
- Working with partners to develop alternatives.
- Making cycling and bus travel more affordable and more convenient.

Alison adds: “The first travel plan was a huge success. We now have a tax free purchase scheme and better facilities for cyclists as well as discounted monthly and weekly bus travel cards. Now we want to build on that for the sake of everyone’s health and the good of the environment. We also now have two bicycles (one female and one male) for Trust staff to use on hospital business (helmet and jacket available).

Continued on page 2

Factfile: Sustainable travel
- Around 100 bicycles can be produced for the same energy and resources it takes to build one car. (source: TravelWise)
- In 6,000 miles, a car will produce roughly its own weight in CO2 (source: TravelWise)
- Regular cycling will give you a fitness level equivalent to being 10 years younger. (Source: Car Free London Exhibition)
Patrick takes the helm from Jim

PATRICK CROWLEY has taken over the role of chief executive after the departure of Jim Easton, who takes on a new role at South Central Strategic Health Authority in Berkshire. 

Jim became chief executive of the Trust in September 2003. He has been a manager in the UK National Health Service for 19 years, with a broad background, including mental health, primary care, planning and policy development as well as hospital management.

There have been many tributes from colleagues and governors over the past few months as the date of Jim’s departure neared. Patrick has worked for the Trust since 1991 in a variety of finance and performance management roles prior to his appointment as director of finance and performance in 2001. In that role, he had responsibility for finance, corporate performance management, information services and commissioning.

In the past, Patrick has worked for the Ministry of Defence and in the private sector.

Q&A Patrick Crowley

How have the first weeks been in your new role?

Hectic but enjoyable! Whilst much of the day job is familiar, I have had to learn quickly in some areas where I have no prior knowledge. I have also had to work hard to leave my finance and performance director role behind and am pleased to report this now seems to be happening…freeing up my time a bit and getting out of the hair of other very capable people who can now get on with their jobs!

What are the biggest challenges the Trust faces at the moment?

The biggest single challenge is that we are still uncertain of the impact of the PCT’s financial situation and its response to this will have on the Foundation Trusts services in the medium and longer term. This means we are still unable to plan with real confidence in a number of areas, but I am hopeful this will improve as the PCT’s top team is able to focus more on the future. The immediate challenge is one we face each year as we plan for the winter period. This year is particularly unpredictable as we have yet to fully understand the impact of primary care and community based initiatives to reduce hospital admissions and predict the winter proves a difficult one. However, I am happy we have the right spirit and resolve within the hospital to manage whatever might be thrown at us!

What are your ambitions for the Trust?

Predictable I guess…a future that will allow us to improve the hospital environment where it is most challenged, particularly the ward block, and stable finances that will offer us a real choice in terms of the services we provide, and how well we want to provide them. We have to continue to aspire to be the best and collectively work towards this. I believe anything is possible if we trust and believe in ourselves and are prepared to take whatever action is necessary to keep us moving forward. I firmly believe in the future of York and our ability to further reinforce our role as the leading provider of secondary care services in North Yorkshire.

Members’ Council

GOVERNORS are to be involved in the appointment of the chief executive.

Chairman Alan Maynard assured governors at the second full Foundation Members’ Council meeting that their views would be taken account in the process.

Acting chief executive Patrick Crowley was formally introduced to the Council and it was agreed that the post would be advertised in April 2008.

Former chief executive Jim Easton, who is heading south to become chief executive of the South Central Strategic Health Authority, gave an update on current pressures and priorities, saying that the PCT contract was “challenging”. He also informed governors that the Trust had been the subject of an unannounced hygiene inspection. A report on the outcome had yet to be received.

The Trust’s head of systems and network services Sue Rushbrook gave a presentation about IT systems in use, including the Core Patient Database.

Packed AGM

MORE than 60 people attended the Trust’s annual general meeting on 26 September.

Chairman Alan Maynard paid tribute to chief executive Jim Easton, who was attending his last AGM at the Trust, and there were questions from the public about finances, pharmacy delays, car parking, infection control and the no smoking policy.

Jim gave a presentation on developments at the Trust and director of finance (now acting chief executive) Patrick Crowley illustrated the Trust’s financial position.

Travel vision

Continued from page 1
These can be booked through the Porter’s Lodge.”

Work on the new patient and visitor car park is about to start. Cable diversions and preparation will take place before Christmas and construction will begin early in 2008. Arrangements for temporary parking around the Bootham Park Chapel and at the Nuffield Hospital have been made.

For up to date information please check the Trust’s website at www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk

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Nursing boost

THE TRUST is to invest £1.25million in extra nursing staff at York Hospital.

The move has been made to both improve patient care and help the working lives of existing nursing staff.

The 25 new nursing posts will be created in the areas where there is most need, such as elderly, medical and general wards.

Deputy chief executive Mike Proctor explained: “It is a significant step up in the number of people that will be available to look after patients and we expect that will lead to an improvement in the quality of service we will be able to offer.

“I think it's really positive news for patients and it will also enable staff to deliver the quality of care that they aspire to.”

Addressing the need for extra nurses: Mike Proctor
Critical care makes huge leap forward

INFECTION control is central to the design of York Hospital’s new intensive care unit (ICU), which opened recently.

The new ICU is phase 1 of a three-phase redevelopment of facilities for patients in need of critical care. Phase 2 will see visitor and staff facilities to support the unit and Phase 3 creates a new, enlarged high dependency unit (HDU).

Critical care services manager Christine Morris explains: “The old facilities were becoming very outdated. Now we have a state-of-the-art environment where infection control is literally built in. You can only enter the unit through the gown room and we can easily isolate individual patients if necessary.”

The new ICU has 10 bed bays and is currently also housing patients who would normally be housed in the HDU.

However, when Phase 3 opens next July, the new HDU will itself have eight bed bays, making the facilities for patients with greater needs some of the best in the country.

Christine adds: “What is great about the new bed bays in that they are so large compared with the old ones. Also, the pendant system where all of the wires and tubes come down from a ceiling pendant means you can literally walk around the whole of a patient’s bed, with no danger of tripping over wires, etc.”

Currently Phases 2 and 3 are under construction, which has been a challenge in itself. Christine adds: “You can imagine how difficult it has been to open the ICU only yards away from the building work. We’ve had to take extreme measures to stop dust and the like entering the building. However, the air quality in the new unit is fantastic because of the equipment on the roof. The standards are better than theatre standard.”

Phase 2, which is due to be opened in February, will come as a relief for visitors and staff alike, who are currently managing with cramped conditions.

Christine concludes: “It’s been tough but everyone has coped really well and when we moved from the old ICU to the new one everyone mucked in to get the job done. We have some very well motivated staff.”