

**B E D F O R D   H O S P I T A L   T R U S T**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bedford Hospital Trust  
held at 4pm on Wednesday 28th September 2011 in the Committee Room, Bedford Hospital**

**Present:** | Members of the Trust Board  
| Staff of the Hospital  
| Foundation Trust members  
| Other members of the Public

**1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed those present, particularly Foundation Trust members. He outlined the purpose of the meeting as being to reflect on the Trust's performance and achievements during 2010/11. There were many successes against a background of significant change, both nationally, with the NHS reforms, and locally, with changes to the Trust Board. The year had seen the appointment of the new Chief Executive, Joe Harrison, a new Director of Nursing & Patient Services and a new Director of Organisational Development and subsequently a new Chief Operating Officer and Interim Director of Finance.

In relation to Foundation Trust status, he apologised that this had been a lengthy process and thanked those present for their continued support. He encouraged those present to be involved in further ways, especially in relation to patient experience. He stressed that the aim remained to provide safe, high quality sustainable service in the light of having to make significant financial savings year-on-year. He recorded his thanks to the Trust staff for their dedication, hard work and professionalism and for those who supported the Trust financially and as volunteers.

**2. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive gave an indication of the scale of activity of the Trust across the Accident and Emergency Department, inpatient areas, outpatient areas, with 3324 babies being delivered by hospital midwives and 365,000 patient meals served. All national targets had been met including seeing patients who attended Accident and Emergency Department within four hours and patients with suspected cancer within two weeks of GP referral. The Trust had also recorded the lowest ever rates of infection in relation to MRSA and *clostridium difficile* respectively 2 and 30. A number of new services had been developed, including the breast and bowel cancer unit, a one-stop vascular service, a percutaneous coronary intervention service and a modular (mobile) theatre. The Trust had continued to win awards – CHKS Top 40 Hospital Award, the Nursing Times Top 100 Employer award, cleanest hospital award. He thanked the local community for their considerable support through the Gamma Camera Appeal by Bedford Hospitals Charity, the Friends of Bedford Hospital and a range of local groups and charities, not least the 200 hospital volunteers. He stressed that the objectives for 2011/12 remained Patient Safety, Improving Patient Experience and Clinical Excellence, while striving to develop new services and new models of care to best meet the needs of patients now and in the future.

**3. FINANCIAL SITUATION**

The Interim Director of Finance confirmed that the Trust had achieved an operating surplus of £274,000 for the year. Because of a reduction in the value of the Trust's assets because falling land and building values, the accounts showed a deficit of £3.286m. During the year the Trust invested £9.5m in capital projects. He stressed the need to achieve a surplus in the current year, which would need a significant cost improvement programme and the introduction of innovative ways of working across traditional boundaries. He also paid thanks

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to those who raised funds for the hospital. This was much appreciated.

## 4. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Members of the Trust Board responded to questions from those present on the decontamination unit, and the Trust's energy saving programme including to installation of photo-voltaic cells,  
the impact of population growth,  
the need to develop preventive services through for example the screening programmes,  
the need to reduce the length of stay in hospital,  
developing care of dementia patients requiring acute hospital care,  
the arrangement with Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for the provision of ophthalmic services in Bedford,  
the availability of the Annual Report prior to the meeting,  
the opportunities available for members of the public to assist the hospital,  
the relationship between the Archer Unit and the Trust,  
working with General Practitioners to encourage patients to choose Bedford Hospital,  
whether there are too many managers, linked to the need for managers to be visible and see for themselves what was happening in the hospital,  
the future of the North Wing site,  
acceptable discharge arrangements out of hours and  
the future of Weller Wing.

The Chairman commented that this was the best attended and most lively AGM he had chaired in the last 5 years, and welcomed the mainly positive and helpful public comment/questioning

The meeting ended at 5.20pm.

Signed as a correct record