

Confirmed

**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 the Bedford Hospital Trust  
held at 5pm on Tuesday 22nd September 2009  
in the Committee Room, Bedford Hospital**

**Present:** | Members of the Trust Board  
| Staff of the Hospital  
| Members of the Public including representatives from the Bedford  
| Hospitals Charity and NHS Bedfordshire

**1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed those present and gave a brief overview of year. It remained the aim of the Trust to achieve Foundation Trust status. The assessment process for this was a rigorous one. The Board has set quality as a priority and was developing survey methods to increase its knowledge of the patient experience. He drew attention to the productive ward project, which had the aim of ensuring that nursing staff spent more time in contact with patients and the third year of financial surplus. He thanked the stakeholders, patients and staff who had contributed to the success of the Trust in the year.

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

The Chief Executive advised that the hospital had been busier than ever before, for example the number of births had risen to over 3,000. There had been a number of challenges in the year, not least, snow in February, but the impact on service had been minimised though the efforts of staff. The Trust was one of only 50 to achieve the Accident and Emergency waiting time target for 2008/9. It had achieved the 18-week waiting target early and had improved productivity, in particular admission on the day of surgery. Hospital acquired infection had reduced considerably, thanks to the zero tolerance policy being adopted. There had been improvements in patient privacy and patient safety. Service developments included the development of a Stroke Service, Cardiology, vascular surgery and bowel screening. Over £4m had been invested in buildings. During the year the Trust had won a number of prestigious awards including retaining Investors in People recognition and being a CHKS top hospital for the sixth year in succession. She thanked the community in particular the volunteers and Bedford Hospitals Charity for their support of the hospital and staff for their contribution.

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Director of Finance & Performance presented the headline financial successes of the year. The Trust had achieved financial surplus for the third successive year and met its £2m target. It had met its break even duty, had a clean audit opinion, implemented the International Financial Reporting Standard and delivered a demanding capital programme. The aim in 2009/10 was to deliver a surplus of £1.3m, to turn service line reporting into service line management and to strengthen the long term financial model.

**4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Those present raised issues about the utilisation of the site, the cost delivering modern technology, what the Trust perceived as its threats and the impact of choice, particularly in relation to the capacity in the maternity service. These were responded to by Board members.

The meeting ended at 5.35pm.

Signed as a correct record