

Patient focus...

The newsletter for patients and our foundation trust members

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for results of
the 2012
governor
elections

Summer 2012

Children's services continue as usual

You may well have heard that on 4 July a committee of NHS primary care trust chief executives announced its intention to decommission children's heart surgery at Royal Brompton Hospital. After more than a year of waiting for the outcome of the Safe and Sustainable review into children's heart surgery in England and despite the Trust's efforts to prevent such a decision, this is disappointing news.

Please rest assured that children's services at Royal Brompton, and Harefield, are continuing as normal. All appointments and scheduled procedures and operations will take place as usual unless you are notified of changes due to other circumstances. If you have



any concerns about a scheduled inpatient or outpatient visit, please contact the relevant team using the details on your appointment letter.

Trust board deliberations

Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust's board met to discuss the decision by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT). Board members expressed their concern and concluded that they do not believe the decision is in the best interests of patients.

Board members agreed that every effort will be made to ensure that London commissioners and the implementation panel understand the significant adverse consequences for a range of other clinical services at Royal Brompton and the

impact the decision will have on patient care across adult and children's specialist cardiac and respiratory services in England.

The board's view remains that a collaborative network in London, with formally agreed referrals, pathways and protocols, would promote specialism and provide patients regionally and nationally with the best clinical expertise. With clear, unambiguous governance arrangements and no adverse effects on other services, it would become a beacon for excellence in children's cardiac care, research and training internationally.

Parliamentary support

We continue to actively gather support from MPs, some of whom have been speaking passionately on our behalf.

At the end of June, Gordon Henderson, Conservative MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, laid down an Early Day Motion (EDM) highlighting how the closure of the children's heart surgery unit at Royal Brompton would also damage specialist services for children with cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and other respiratory illnesses because access to an on-site intensive care unit will no longer be possible. Mr Henderson visited the hospital late last year following a letter from a parent in his constituency.

Following the 4 July announcement, Labour MP for Hammersmith, Andy Slaughter, voiced his support for Royal Brompton Hospital in a private members' debate describing the decision to decommission children's cardiac surgery as "extraordinary". Mark Field, Conservative MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, added that: "... the Royal Brompton is one of only two hospitals in the country where four surgeons already handle well over 500 congenital cardiac cases a year, meeting, therefore, the standards expected by professionals and the review panel's criteria."

On 17 July, Andy Slaughter secured an adjournment debate and made a passionate speech in the House of Commons, urging the Secretary of State for Health to meet clinicians from Royal Brompton to "at least hear what they have to say" about the impact of the closure of the children's heart unit. He reiterated his concerns about the damage the decision would do to "one of the best performing and largest centres in England."

We will continue to keep you updated on the Trust's steps following this decision by the JCPCT. For more information about the background to the review of children's cardiac surgery in England, please visit: www.rbht.nhs.uk/safe.

Results of the 2012 governor elections

What is the role of a governor?

Trust members elect governors to ensure that their views are listened to and shared with the Trust's board. Governors do not get involved in the day-to-day running of the hospitals but they do advise on the Trust's future direction and they meet regularly with board members, directors and other decision-makers within the Trust.

Each governor is elected for a three-year term.

Election results

As a number of three-year terms on the governors' council came to an end on 31 May 2012, Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust ran elections in June and July.

The Trust has 23 governor positions divided into four groups: public, patient and carer, staff, and appointed governors.

At the elections, two new patient governors were elected and three new staff governors: a junior doctor, a medical secretary, and a nurse consultant, representing a broad spectrum of staff working at the Trust.

Five governors (one staff, two public, one patient and one patient carer) were re-elected and will therefore serve a second term.

A new public governor was elected unopposed to the Public: Rest of England constituency, but has decided to stand down, and in the Patient: Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire constituency, no candidates came forward.

Since the elections, Caroline Greenhalgh has resigned from the Public: South of England constituency and Brian Waylett has resigned from the Patient: North West London constituency.

The Trust will run by-elections in early autumn for each of these four vacancies.

Constituency	Governor
Public: Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	Kenneth Appel <i>(re-elected)</i>
Public: North West London	Philip Dodd <i>(re-elected)</i>
Public: Rest of England	Resigned 12/07/12 <i>(vacancy)</i>
Patient: North West London	Peter Rust <i>(re-elected)</i>
Patent: Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	No candidates <i>(vacancy)</i>
Patient: South of England	Edward Waite <i>(newly elected)</i>
Patient: Elsewhere	John McIntosh <i>(newly elected)</i>
Patient: Carer	Adrian Lepper <i>(re-elected)</i>
Staff	Ian Balfour-Lynn <i>(re-elected)</i>
Staff	Anne McDermott <i>(newly elected)</i>
Staff	Andrew Morley-Smith <i>(newly elected)</i>
Staff	Jennifer Sano <i>(newly elected)</i>

For full details of governors and their constituencies, please visit www.rbht.nhs.uk/governors

Diary dates ■ *Diary dates* ■ Diary dates ■ *Diary*

Harefield Hospital Fun Run 2012

Last year's fun run raised more than £30,000, pushing the MRI scanner appeal past £1.1million. And it's almost that time again! This year's Harefield Hospital Fun Run is on **Sunday 2 September**. Entry to run, walk, wheel or hop is only £10 for adults or £5 for children. Online registration is available until Friday 24 August, but you can register on the day. We look forward to seeing you, your



Eighties pop star and former Harefield patient, Shakin' Stevens with the starter's horn at the 2011 fun run

family and friends in September for another great day out. For more information on the run and the day's activities, please contact the fundraising team by email: fundraising@rbht.nhs.uk or telephone: **01895 828820**, or visit: www.rbhcharity.org/fun-run

Harefield theatres open day

Harefield Hospital opens the doors to its world-famous operating theatres on **Tuesday 18 September**. Normally off limits, patients and their families, the local community



Meet your newly elected patient governors

John McIntosh – Patient: Elsewhere

John underwent heart surgery at Royal Brompton in 2003.

He began his career working for the NHS as a hospital engineer. He did this for over 12 years, obtaining his engineering degree along the way. He then worked as a director for several international engineering consultancy practices before starting his own private engineering consultancy practice in 1997. John is a fellow of several professional engineering institutes in the UK including the Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estates Management, and in his spare time he chairs interview panels for engineers wishing to join them.

As a governor he is keen to give something back to the NHS and hopes that his professional experience in the commercial world, along with his time as a patient, will be helpful in the role of governor.



John McIntosh

Edward Waite – Patient: South of England

Edward was born with a complicated congenital heart defect and is currently a GUCH (grown-up with congenital heart disease) patient at Royal Brompton. The specialist medical care he has enjoyed at Royal Brompton has made him passionate about the hospital.

Having passed a milestone age last year, Edward decided it was time to give something back to the NHS and in particular to Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust. As a small part of this he and his wife and daughter all took part in the Harefield Fun Run last year and intend to do so again in 2012.

He currently works as a lawyer for a large maritime law firm in London. Outside work Edward is a web designer and joint membership secretary for the British Japanese Law Association.

More information about your patient governors can be found on the Trust website: www.rbht.nhs.uk/governors



Edward Waite

Diary dates ■ Diary dates ■ Diary dates ■ Diary dates



and members of staff from across the Trust will have the opportunity to see behind the scenes and take a close look at some of the fascinating equipment in use. There will be a range of demonstrations such as cardiopulmonary bypass (using a mannequin patient with coloured fluids showing how the heart is pumped by a machine), heart valve replacement (showing the use of prosthetic valves on porcine hearts), simulation and videos of endoscopic

vein harvest, simulated thoroscopic surgery and simulated anaesthetic procedures such as intubation and bronchoscopy. Theatres staff will run several tours between 10am and 4pm. Numbers are limited so please reserve a free place by calling **01895 828 820**.

Third annual members' meeting

Time/date: 1pm-4pm on Wednesday 10 October 2012

Venue: Concert Hall, Harefield Hospital, Hill End Road, Harefield UB9 6JH

The third annual members' meeting provides an opportunity to meet the Trust governors and to hear about the Trust's achievements and future plans. All Trust members are invited. To register to attend, please email: members@rbht.nhs.uk or telephone **020 7351 8208**.

Meet your newly elected staff governors

Anne McDermott

Anne has worked at Harefield Hospital for 18 years. After working in a number of different nursing positions, she moved into the role of transplant nurse consultant in 2002. She has an MSc in cardiorespiratory nursing, and a strong interest in research and improving the patient experience. In her role, she works with patients being assessed for lung transplant and is involved in aspects of post-transplant care. She also manages the transplant nurse specialists.

She is keen to represent the views of staff and patients at Harefield. She says: "We are continuously judged by how we perform. Therefore, the provision of high-quality care is of paramount importance. Despite economic constraints, remaining a leader in the provision of cardiothoracic care requires investment and commitment to both the staff and the Trust."



Anne McDermott

Andrew Morley-Smith

Andrew is a junior doctor at Royal Brompton Hospital, where he has worked for the past year, spending periods in cardiology, adult intensive care and respiratory medicine. His undergraduate medical training was at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

In October 2012, he will be starting a three-year clinical research fellowship in the Trust's cardiovascular biomedical research unit, studying a new mechanical support device for patients with heart failure. The fellowship requires him to spend time at Harefield and Royal Brompton, which will enable Andrew to represent the views of colleagues at both hospitals, particularly ward teams, research staff and junior doctors, in this new role. He is looking forward to carrying out his duties as a governor. Away from the Trust, Andrew enjoys sailing and theatre.



Andrew Morley-Smith

Jennifer Sano

Jennifer is from New Zealand and works as a medical secretary at Royal Brompton with Professor Durham, respiratory consultant for allergy and asthma, and Mr Saleh in the nose clinic. She has many years' experience as a medical secretary in several hospitals and specialties across London.

Outside work she is involved in the New Zealand Society and the New Zealand Women's Association, to help promote her country's culture within the UK. She has previously been an academic editor and has her own secretarial / publishing business editing medical and scientific papers on behalf of colleagues. Her passions are food, gardening, motorcycles and supporting "the best rugby team in the world".

She is interested in matters of patient safety and welfare, as well as the recognition and skills development of all individual staff groups. As a governor she hopes to promote staff awareness and involvement in the Trust.

More information about your staff governors can be found on the Trust website: www.rbht.nhs.uk/governors



Jennifer Sano

What do you think of our equality objectives?

On 6 April 2012, the Trust's equality objectives were published. These are part of the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and relate to patients and our staff. They cover the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, gender and sexual orientation.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all its services meet the differing needs and accessibility requirements of the communities it serves.

The Trust's equality objectives are:

- 1 To develop the membership of the Foundation Trust in order to ensure that it is representative of the communities we serve.
- 2 To review all policies to ensure that they have an equality impact assessment – review to be completed by 5 April 2015.
- 3 To review the outcomes for female patients referred to the heart divisions, in order to determine

whether the outcomes differ from those of matched male patients.

- 4 To review recruitment practices and processes in the light of the Equality Act to ensure total fairness and transparency for all.

We welcome your views and comments on these objectives, or any

others you would like to see considered, from now until 30 November 2012.

Please email your comments / suggestions to Steven Pike, performance analyst at the Trust via email: s.pike@rbht.nhs.uk or tel: **020 7351 2765**.



Invitation to participate in PEAT pilot

We are pleased to announce that the Trust has been chosen as a pilot site for the new patient-led Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) inspection programme.

PEAT is an annual self-assessment of food, cleanliness, environment, and privacy and dignity carried out by all

NHS trusts since 2000. Previous PEAT teams for the Trust included facilities managers, modern matrons, governors and patient representatives such as members of Kensington & Chelsea and Hillingdon Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).

We are keen to recruit up to 10 patient

members of the Trust to participate in the pilot programme, which will commence in October 2012. If you are interested in being involved or would like more information, please contact: Mr Steve Moore, head of estates and facilities, on s.moore@rbht.nhs.uk or **020 7351 8076**.



Pass it on...

We are always keen to recruit new members to our Trust. Anyone over the age of 16 is eligible whether a patient, carer or member of the public. If you enjoy receiving and reading this newsletter, why not pass it on to friends to read and encourage them to sign up too?

They can apply online at: www.rbht.nhs.uk or by emailing us at: members@rbht.nhs.uk/members to obtain a membership form.

Useful contacts for Trust members

Foundation Trust

■ Melanie Foody

Membership and user involvement manager

Tel: 020 7351 8208

Email: members@rbht.nhs.uk

■ Anthony Lumley

Foundation Trust office

Tel: 020 7351 8264

Email: governors@rbht.nhs.uk

Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity

■ Gill Raikes

Chief executive

Tel: 020 7352 8121 ext 2798

Email: g.raikes@rbht.nhs.uk

■ Desiree Zimmerman

Fundraising department, Harefield Hospital

Tel: 01895 828 820

Email: d.zimmerman@rbht.nhs.uk

Local Involvement Networks

■ Kensington & Chelsea LINK

Address: Unit 25, Shaftesbury Centre,
85 Barlby Road, London W10 6BN

Tel: 020 8968 7049 / 6771

Email: rbkclink@hestia.org

Website: www.rbkclink.org

■ Hillingdon LINK

Address: 26 Market Square, The Mall Pavilions,
Uxbridge UB8 1LH

Tel: 01895 272 997

Email: office@hillingtonlink.org.uk

Website: www.hillingdonlink.org.uk

Other useful contacts

■ Harefield Hamsters

Harefield transplant club

Chairman: Lewis Sander

Secretary: Alan Lees

Email: secretary@harefieldhamsters.org

Website: www.harefieldhamsters.org

■ Re-Beat

Harefield patient support group

Chairman: David Potter

Secretary: Dennis Gulliford

Tel: 01923 243 672

■ Friends of Harefield Hospital

Contact: Debbie Mortimer

Tel: 01895 828 678

■ League of Friends, Royal Brompton

Contact: Elizabeth Henderson

Tel: 020 7351 8272

Email: e.henderson@rbht.nhs.uk

■ Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Address: 11 London Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1BY

Tel: 020 8464 7211

Helpline: 0300 373 1000

Email: enquiries@cftrust.org.uk

Website: www.cftrust.org.uk

■ Grown Up Congenital Heart Patients Association

Address: 25 St Margaret's Green, Ipswich IP4 2BN

Tel: 01473 252 007

Helpline: 0800 854 759 (answerphone only at weekends)

Email: admin@guch.org.uk

Website: www.guch.org.uk

■ Tiny Tickers

A source of information on prenatal heart disease

Tel: 0844 414 1248

Email: info@tinytickers.org

Website: www.tinytickers.org

■ The Brompton Fountain

Supporting families of children with heart

and lung conditions at Royal Brompton Hospital

Tel: 020 7776 9000

Email: admin@thebromptonfountain.org.uk

Website: www.thebromptonfountain.org.uk

■ Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) Family Support Group

Contact: Fiona Copeland

Tel: 01908 281 635

Website: www.pcdsupport.org.uk

■ Duchenne Family Support Group

Address: 78 York Street, London W1H 1DP

Tel: 0870 241 1857

Helpline: 0800 121 4518

Email: info@dfsg.org.uk

Website: www.dfsg.org.uk

■ Raynaud's & Scleroderma Association

Address: 112 Crewe Road, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2JA

Tel: 01270 872 776 or 0800 9172 494

Email: info@raynauds.org.uk

Website: www.raynauds.org.uk