

'shared Trust, shared success'

An update from John Savage, Chairman

Welcome to the last member's newsletter for 2009. This year has gone so fast and has been our first full calendar year as a Foundation Trust. I would like to start by thanking our Governors for their ongoing support and interest in our hospitals, special thanks must go to Clive Hamilton for stepping up to the position of Lead Governor. I and the board express our sincere thanks for all our Governors and members for your support and challenge. Next year there will be even more events and opportunities for you to visit us, meet our staff and see first hand our plans for the future. We want to listen and learn from each other.

There are some real challenges ahead for the NHS in 2010. Here at UH Bristol we are preparing our plans for the increasing pressure there will be on our economic resources, part of that preparation is through a

project called 'Making our Hospitals Better'. Led by our Medical Director, Dr Jonathan Sheffield, we are looking at how we can do things differently, how we share positive experiences and make the patient care we offer even better. I have personally seen the effect of the 'Productive Ward' which enables our nursing staff to ensure that they are delivering the best possible care, in the best possible way – it really does make a real difference.

At UH Bristol we are facing some huge challenges throughout the winter months with increasing cases of swine flu and more and more patients coming into A&E and through direct admissions. You can do your bit to help by telling your family and friends about the other places where they can receive help, NHS Direct, Pharmacies, minor injuries Units and GPs. Broadmead has a

GP surgery and you don't even need to be registered to go there. However, if you are suffering from a life threatening injury or illness do not delay in coming to A&E.

The next few years are going to be really challenging for UH Bristol, and your continued support will be vital to our ability to deal effectively with those challenges. Thank you for everything you do. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.



John Savage, Chairman

Governor elections in 2010

Have you considered standing to be a governor and help shape our future?

Would you like to represent your members' views as a governor?

Members elect governors to represent their views on the Trust's future plans and the next elections are taking place in March 2010.

Governors bring their ideas, skills and experience as members of the public, or

patients and carers of people who use our services, to discussions and debates about our hospitals' services.

This type of public involvement helps ensure our services best reflect the needs of the local community. That's what being a Foundation Trust is all about.

To find out more, turn to page 3 or look on our web page, uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership.

Members' Events

My Hospitals My Say
An event for young people
Saturday 30 January

Membership Council
3 February, 1-3pm
UH Bristol Education Centre,
Marlborough Street, Bristol,
BS2 8AE
All members welcome

Election Information Events
In February, see page 3

*Check event details in advance
on our website
uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership,
or by calling the Membership
Office on 0117 342 3764*

A busy year ahead for governors

The Trust's public, patient and staff governors have been developing their work plan for the coming year and there are a number of new activities proposed. An important part of the role is representing the public, patient and staff views of the membership and service users generally, either informally or through the formal governing body, the Membership Council.

We will be arranging **Meet Your Governor** sessions in the Trust's hospitals, starting with some of our outpatient waiting areas. Governors will be there to receive any comments and suggestions about the Trust and the services we provide. Dates and times will be published on the web page (uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership), advertised in future newsletters, or you can telephone the Membership Office.

The Trust is planning to hold **members events**, where you will be able to meet your governors. Look out for dates on the web page and in future newsletters.

Another proposal taking shape is the setting up of a governor page on the Trust's **website**. This will contain information about the governors and how to contact them. There will be an area on the website for you to have your say about the Trust's healthcare services.

Governors were either elected or appointed to office and started their statutory responsibilities in June 2008. In addition to the Membership Council, there are four **formal committees** that governors attend:

- ◆ Nominations and Appointments Committee
- ◆ Quality Sub-group
- ◆ Strategy Sub-group
- ◆ Involvement Sub-group

These groups report their activities to the Membership Council. Governors are also involved in a wider range of groups covering topics such as:

- ◆ Paediatrics
- ◆ Organ donation
- ◆ Infection control
- ◆ Frontage and public areas development
- ◆ Access and parking
- ◆ Patient Environment Action Team inspections
- ◆ Clinical Excellence

The Trust's monthly Board meetings are open to the public and there are usually a few governors on hand at these sessions, should you need to contact them. The work plan now includes a pre-agenda meeting of governors to agree the content of the governors' report to the Membership Council.

It is this report that the governors use to represent the views of public, patient and staff members and service users.

Governors now have a programme of monthly informal sessions with individual members of the Board and the Executive Group, where there is a frank exchange of views and feedback.

You can contact the public, patient or staff governors through the Membership Office by:

Email:

foundationtrust@uhbristol.nhs.uk

or

Mail:

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, Membership Office, Trust HQ, Marlborough Street, Bristol BS1 3NU

or

Telephone: 0117 342 3764



Clive Hamilton, a Local Patient Governor and Vice Chair/Lead Governor
Email: clive.hamilton@nhs.net

Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) Redevelopment



The BRI design phase is progressing and we are looking for lay representatives to join a range of work groups for the BRI Redevelopment. You can be involved in:

- ◆ Improving how the BRI main entrance looks and operates
- ◆ Designing hospital wards
- ◆ Improving communications and public and patient involvement
- ◆ Main site dining facilities

- ◆ Queens building front cladding

Your involvement in these groups would bring a unique perspective to the work and will ensure we deliver the best possible service for patients.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Tony Watkin on 0117 342 3729 or email your details to foundationtrust@uhbristol.nhs.uk

Governor elections in 2010

Governors are elected from the Trusts' membership to serve on the Membership Council which oversees and advises on the work of the Trust. The next elections are taking place in March 2010.

The Governor seats for election are:

- ✓ Two seats in the Public South Gloucestershire constituency
- ✓ Two seats in the Public Bristol constituency
- ✓ Two seats in the Carers of Patients 16 years and over constituency
- ✓ Two seats in the Staff constituency: Nursing and Midwifery class
- ✓ One seat in the Staff constituency: Other Clinical Healthcare Professionals class
- ✓ Three seats in the Local Patients constituency
- ✓ Two seats in the Tertiary Patients constituency (patients who live outside of Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos)

If you would like to check which constituency you are in, please contact the Membership Office by telephone, on 0117 342 3764, or by email at foundationtrust@uhbristol.nhs.uk

What does a Governor do? Governors are one of our links to the community, representing the views and opinions of our membership. They do this by bringing their ideas, skills and experience to discussions and debates about our hospitals' future plans. This type of public involvement helps ensure that our services best reflect the needs of the local community.

What are the requirements for eligibility to stand for election to be a governor? You may stand to become a Governor if:

- ◆ You are a member of the University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- ◆ You are over 16 years of age

You cannot become a Governor if:

- ◆ You are already a director or governor of another NHS Foundation Trust
- ◆ If you have had, in the last five years, undischarged bankruptcy or served a prison sentence of more than three months.

How do I put myself forward in the election to become a Governor? If you are interested in nominating yourself or want to find out more about the role, please return the reply slip below. Cut along the dotted line and post to the Membership Office.

REPLY

Governor Elections 2010

Yes, I am interested in nominating myself for Governor in the next elections.

Name (full name in capitals):

Address (full address):

Yes, I would like to attend an information event and find out about the role of Governor (please tick one box):

10 February 2010 at 5-6pm in UH Bristol Education Centre, Marlborough Street, Bristol, BS2 8AE

25 February 2010 at 12.30-1.30pm in UH Bristol Education Centre, Marlborough Street, Bristol, BS2 8AE

Please return this slip to: University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, FREEPOST UH BRISTOL FT OFFICE, BS1 3NU (you do not need to use a stamp)

Get involved ...

Foundation Trust members are taking an active role in the work of the Trust.

Rais Hyder has been a member since 2007 and has recently joined the Trust's Race Religions and Belief Group. The work of the group ensures that issues of faith are taken into consideration in the planning and delivery of services, both for patients and staff.

He joined the group because of his long-standing interest in the work of the Trust and his own personal interest in faith issues.

Rais said: "I have now been to two meetings and already I can see how my contributions

can add value to the discussions that take place. The group has a very thorough action plan and I am hoping to use my community network to bring new perspectives to the work of the group."

Rais has a long history of supporting the work of the Trust. As a Trust member he contributed to the communications and involvement work that helped deliver the Bristol Heart Institute. He is also a member of the cardiac volunteer team.

Involving members in the work of the Trust is something that we would like to see more of. There are a range of opportunities available and these range from taking part in

one-off activities such as focus groups, and discreet project-based work such as the development of a new service, to longer term commitments, such as the work Rais is involved in.

If you would like to discuss how you can take a more active role, contact either Tony Watkin on 0117 342 3729 or the Membership Office on 0117 342 3764.



Rais (left) at a patient experience members event

Dementia services in the spotlight at awareness day



The Trust's first Dementia Awareness day was held this summer and feedback from the event showed it was a success.

The event was held to coincide with National Alzheimer's Awareness week, which had the theme 'Look after your heart, look after your head', and its aim was to inform staff and Trust members about services available in the Trust and the local community.

Jane Buswell, Nurse Consultant, Older People, Clinical Lead Dementia, said: "The event was well attended and we were pleased with the response from both staff and Trust members.

"We were also impressed by the level of engagement from external organisations, who were invited to take part."

Maria Fox, the Trust's Membership Manager, said: "The Trust's public, patient and staff members want to be involved in our hospitals and the event for Dementia Awareness day was an ideal opportunity for members to be involved."

The awareness day will be repeated next year. Dates will be on the website, uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership

Recommend a friend

A key part of being an NHS Foundation Trust is to involve and represent our local communities.

This means everyone, including our staff, patients, volunteers, friends and family, can become members and actively contribute to how our hospitals are run.

If you know somebody who might be interested, why not tell them all about being a member?

To register, all your friend or relative needs to do is visit uhbristol.nhs.uk/membership and fill out the electronic form.

If they prefer, they can call our Membership Office on 0117 342 3764.