



Your Trust News

Newsletter for the members of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Governor elections - remember to vote!

Ballot papers are due to be sent out shortly by post to all public members' home addresses, including instructions on how to vote, if you do not receive details by 31 August 2006 please contact the members' helpline on 01733 343221. Voting closes Thursday 14 September 2006.

Chief Executive's message

Welcome to our regular members' update. With the NHS financial situation continuing to be in the national spotlight we were pleased to see that in the first three months of the current financial year the Trust was trading just in the black. Whilst we have a long way to go to recoup the deficit of the previous two years there is at last some stability in the finances though, as ever, they continue to be tight. We are working through a tough cost saving programme which is all the more necessary because local primary care trusts (PCTs) are themselves cash-strapped and reducing the funding they provide to the hospital. (PCTs are the NHS organisations that pay for hospital services on your behalf.)

Our savings plan includes further job reductions as announced in February but we are working hard to redeploy staff whose jobs are at risk into suitable alternatives that arise through vacancies. In this way we reduce the overall headcount, and hence staff cost, but retain the knowledge and skills of people who have worked with us, and we minimise redundancies. In the last three months we have placed 89 staff at risk, but, so far, we have had only six compulsory redundancies.

As well as the cost reductions the PCTs require us, along with other hospitals, to extend our waiting lists for some routine procedures. This will reduce the number of patient operations we carry out this year and will save the PCTs money. While we and the PCTs think this is very regrettable for patients, it is unfortunately a financial necessity. Nevertheless we will still be seeing all patients before the national maximum waiting time, and we are still planning to get the total waiting time from GP referral to treatment down to a maximum of 18 weeks by April

2008. This will be a very significant service improvement for patients.

The Department of Health (DH) has recently reviewed all major NHS hospital redevelopment schemes and will be announcing which of them it continues to support. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear the results with regard to our own new hospital. Assuming it is okay there will still be a few more hurdles to jump before we can start building work, but we are hopeful that we will start later this year so that the new hospital is ready for service in 2010.

Thank you for showing your interest in the Trust by continuing to be a member. Please don't forget that as a member you are entitled to vote for Governors who oversee the Trust on your behalf.

With best wishes,

Chris Banks,
chief executive



Lay member required – Maternity services

To make sure our services reflect the needs and requirements of the local community, we like to involve 'lay' members – these are members of the public without a professional clinical background.

We currently have two groups for maternity services that are looking for a public member – the Maternity Liaison Services Committee and the Labour Ward Forum. If you are interested in being involved on these committees please contact Sam Robinson, Assistant General Manager Maternity and Paediatric Service Telephone: 01733 874562

Our ratings from Monitor

(the Independent Regulator for Foundation Trust hospitals)

We are pleased to confirm our new ratings from Monitor for 2006/07. We are given ratings for our financial performance, governance structures and the

provision of services. Our ratings are now as follows:

- Financial risk rating – 3 – better than last year
- Governance risk rating – green – the best rating
- Services risk rating – green – the best rating



If you know someone who would like to become a member they can register on 01733 343221

Travel Options initiative

As announced in May, the beginning of this month saw a new patient and visitor-only parking zone introduced at the front of Peterborough District Hospital, together with the creation of additional staff parking. The changes are to allow easier parking for patients and visitors during peak hours and to alleviate the high demand for staff parking by offering more spaces.

In addition there will be changes to parking charges for visitors and staff to bring them in line with city centre parking charges within the next two years.

As part of the two year plan announced in May, the new rates for visitors will be:

	Since 1 August 2006	Change	From 1 April 2007	Change
Up to 2 hours	£1.50	+ 50p	£2.00	+ 50p
Up to 3 hours	£2.50	+ 50p	£3.00	+ 50p
Up to 4 hours	£3.50	+ 50p	£4.00	+ 50p
Up to 5 hours	£5.00	n/a	£5.00	n/a
Up to 6 hours	£6.00	n/a	£6.00	n/a
Over 6 hours	£10.00	n/a	£10.00	n/a

The new prices will be displayed at all of the Trust's pay and display machines.

The next phase to be introduced this year will be in October when further staff parking bays are created off site close to staff residences at the District Hospital.

The New Year will see the introduction of Peterborough City Council parking attendants at the Edith Cavell Hospital. The parking attendants will help to alleviate the problem of cars parking illegally, blocking ambulance and visitor access. The Trust has seen a significant decrease in illegal parking since their introduction at the District Hospital in September 2005 - creating a safer environment and easier access for all.

Gerry McIntyre, facilities manager, said: "We are continuing to introduce new schemes as part of the Travel Options initiative following its successful launch last year. The latest phases to be launched this year and next will help to make it easier for patients and visitors to park at the District Hospital where there is a very high demand for parking.

"Both patient and visitor zones will be near the front entrance of the District Hospital while the new bays we are creating for staff will be added to the existing staff car park on Midland Road, or at another location near to the hospital.

"The increase to parking charges during the next two years at both Peterborough hospital sites is to bring the charges in line with city centre charges. No time bands above four hours will be affected. The bands up to four hours have only increased by 50p per hour this year and will increase by 50p per hour next April. The revenue from parking is invested back into the creation of new parking facilities and the maintenance of existing facilities.

"Any funds remaining are put back into patient care. Increased revenue from staff charges will allow the Trust to increase the subsidy on bus routes for staff to travel from home to work, which in turn will release more spaces for patient and visitor parking.



"We are pleased with the progress of the Travel Options initiative. The schemes we have introduced since its launch have improved parking for patients and visitors and we have seen a growth in the number of staff using public and alternative forms of transport to travel to work."

The Trust will provide a second protected patient and visitor only bay at Peterborough District Hospital in April 2007 and continue to offer the concessionary permits that allow patients and visitors to stay for a full day for £1.50 and the temporary permits that allow patients and visitors to park for £1.50 a day for seven days. These are given by clinical staff to patients and visitors for clinical or patient care reasons, for example where patients need to attend the hospital regularly over a short period of time or where relatives are visiting patients continuously because of the severe nature of their illness. These charges remain at the lowest payment rate available from the parking machines.

The initiative, which won a 2005 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Work Place Travel Plan Award, follows the Trust's Travel Options consultation carried out last year. The Trust is acknowledged by the Peterborough City Council Travelchoice group as being a leader in promoting sustainable transport initiatives.

The Trust has also appointed a dedicated Travel Plan co-ordinator to further encourage alternative travel options for staff, patients and visitors. This appointment is also part of Peterborough City Council's planning conditions for the new PFI 'super' hospital.



Governors' pages

Welcome to our Governors' pages where we give you feedback on items previously covered, and ask you to give us your ideas and opinions.

At the bottom of these two pages you will find two issues on which we would like your comments - please take the time to respond as this will help us represent your views and enable us, your Governors, to reflect your requirements in the Trust's plans. The first item is asking for your top five issues; the second for ideas on what you would like to get out of your membership and how you would like to receive communications in future.

As an incentive to complete these sections all returned cards will be entered into a draw and the winner will receive a tour of the hospital conducted by Chris Wilkinson the Director of Nursing.

Our last Board of Governors meeting was on the 13 July, and we would like

to thank those members who attended, and invite you to attend future meetings (please see adjacent box for details).

There are a range of issues discussed at the meetings which reflect the interest of governors and members, and to provide you with a flavour of these, we have done a short Question and Answer session with the Chief Executive. These questions are presented overleaf. If you have a particular question you would like to be covered please ring the members' helpline (01733) 343221 with your questions and your contact details.

We look forward to hearing your views and in the meantime please look out for your voting papers to vote for your Governors.

You are invited to the following meetings in public

Board of Directors' meeting dates
Tuesday 7 November – 2:00pm
Committee Room, Edith Cavell Hospital

Board of Governors' meeting dates
Tuesday 10 October – 4:00pm
Stamford Hospital Restaurant

Annual Public Meeting 2006
Thursday 21 September – 4:30pm
Nurses' Home Recreation Hall, near Peterborough Maternity Unit.

To confirm your attendance for any of the above meetings please contact 01733 343221.

Audio tapes of this newsletter are available, please contact the members' helpline to obtain a copy on 01733 343221.



Give us YOUR views

We want to make sure that the Trust's plans reflect your top issues. We are asking you to let us know what these are by filling in and returning the slip below or by ringing the members' helpline on 01733 343221. The board of governors will then present these issues to the directors at a joint meeting being planned for November.



Please list your top five issues below:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.



Edith Cavell Hospital



Governors' Q&A with the Chief Executive

Q. What are the aims of the Stamford Hospital Development Advisory Committee Group and how will the community be involved.

A. *The aim of the group is to involve the local community in looking at the services provided from the Stamford and Rutland Hospital and how these could develop. The local community is involved by having the Stamford Mayor, Stamford GP's and a Stamford based governor on the group. We will communicate any changes through the members' newsletter.*



Q. Why are car parking charges rising again?

A. *As announced in May, car parking charges are being raised in line with our Travel Options plans on which we consulted with you (please see page 2). These charges will be invested back into reserved parking areas for patients and visitors and the maintenance of existing facilities.*



Stamford Hospital



PDH entrance

Q. Why is the hospital keen to close the Social Club at Peterborough?

A. *The Trust currently subsidises the Social Club, something that we cannot continue whilst we are putting staff at risk and when we know we could use the space used by the club to provide more public parking spaces and to generate additional income that is reinvested into patient care.*

Getting the MOST out of membership

We would also like to get your views on how you would like to be involved as members and the best ways of communicating with you to get your views. Please let us know by either answering the

questions below and returning the slip in the envelope provided, or by phoning the members helpline on 01733 343221.

A. As a member, how would you like to be involved with the hospital?

B. As a member, in which ways would you like to receive communications from your Governors?

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Please detach this page and return in the pre-paid envelope provided.