ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, WEST BAWTRY ROAD, ROTHERHAM

Present: Margaret Oldfield, Chairman  
Brian James, Chief Executive  
Matthew Lowry, Chief Financial Officer  
Kerry Rogers, Company Secretary  
Stephen Bower, KPMG

Public Governors: Sylvia Bird, Public Governor for Rotherham North  
Jim Bristow, Public Governor for Rest of England (from item 8)  
Anna Chester, Public Governor for Rotherham South  
Jean Dearden, Public Governor for Wentworth South  
Jan Frith, Public Governor for Rest of England  
Anthony Hayne, Public Governor for Wentworth Valley  
Val Lindsay, Public Governor for Rotherham North  
Janette Mallinder, Public Governor for Wentworth Valley  
Margaret Marshall, Public Governor for Rother Valley South  
Lewis Vizard, Public Governor for Wentworth North  
Sandra Waterfield, Public Governor for Rother Valley South  
Dennis Wray, Public Governor for Rother Valley West

Staff Governors: Julie D’Silva, Staff Governor for Professional Nurses and Midwives  
Firas Al-Modaris, Staff Governor for Medical and Dental  
Jill Ward, Staff Governor for Other Health Professionals

Partner Governors: John Doyle, Partner Governor for RMBC  
Jean Flanagan, Partner Governor for Sheffield Hallam University  
Michael Jennings, Partner Governor for Sheffield University  
John Radford, NHS Rotherham  
Janet Wheatley, Partner Governor for Voluntary Action Rotherham

In attendance: Neil MacDonald, Non-executive Director and Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee  
Nigel Ruff, Non-executive Director  
Giles Bloomer, Non-executive Director  
Julie Hickton, Non-executive Director  
32 members of the public & staff  
Mike Pinkerton, Chief of Business Development  
Jackie Bird, Chief of Quality and Standards  
Mark Trumper, Chief of Transformation  
Andy Irvine, Chief of Community Services  
Walid Al-Wali, Medical Director

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs Margaret Oldfield, Chairman, welcomed members of the Council of Governors, Board of Directors and members of the audience to the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Trust since it was established as a Foundation Trust.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th September 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

3. **PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS**

Mr Brian James, Chief Executive and Mr Matthew Lowry, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation outlining the review of the 2008/09 financial year and also provided an insight into the future direction of the Trust. An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Trust’s website:


Areas for particular note were:

**Key Achievements:**
- Amongst the lowest MRSA and *C. diff* infection rates in the country, reducing by 22% and 72% respectively
- 18 week wait target achieved 9 months ahead of plan – 90% of patients now seen and treated within 9 weeks
- The lowest waiting times in the Country – Ranked #1 for waiting times in the National Inpatient Survey; Average wait from GP referral to Consultant appointment = 9 days; 16 days for elective admission
- National Pilot and Reference site for InterQual – to help patients be cared for in the right place at the right time
- Growing reputation as a research partner - 80 research projects underway + 2 prestigious European projects
- An increase of around 15% in referrals from outside Rotherham since March 2008 – more people are choosing to come to us

**Awards:**
- Rated Double Excellent by the Health Care Commission – amongst top 11% of Trusts in the UK
- Triple win at the BMA Patient Information Awards (including overall first prize)
- Included in CHKS 40 Top Hospitals 2009
- And winner of “Foundation Trust of the Year” at the Health Investor Awards 2009

**Finances:**
- A strong financial performance and healthy surplus (c.£4m)
- £30m investment secured to implement our paperless electronic patient record (EPR) system and >£40m to progress our hospital of tomorrow project, bringing State of the Art patient care facilities to Rotherham citizens over the next few years
- Ended 2008/2009 with surplus of £3.95m, representing 2.4% of turnover

**The way ahead:**
- To become a Best in Class Organisation
- To meet the expectations of the community
- To branch out into new directions

**To achieve the above the Trust would:**
- Improve patient safety and outcomes
- Enhance the patient experience
- Maximise efficiency
• Perform beyond expectations

Mr James concluded that the Trust had seen another successful year and it was anticipated that these successes would continue to grow in order that excellent services continued to be provided to the local and surrounding communities, recognising the significant challenges that lay ahead for the NHS.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITORS REPORT

Mr Stephen Bower, KPMG, the Trust’s external auditors presented the auditors opinion. An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Trust’s website:


In conclusion KPMG were satisfied that The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust had made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2009.

5. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The Chairman opened the session to questions from the audience.

How would the Trust attract patients to Rotherham rather than them attending other hospitals or specialist units, i.e. Kidney transplant patients from Sheffield

Mr James indicated that while the services described in the question were of a specialist tertiary nature, which were not provided at Rotherham, the Trust would continue to work with neighbouring hospitals to ensure that where appropriate services could be provided in Rotherham. Increased patient choice and GP referral patterns also influenced the development of services at the Trust.

Improved and increased levels of research and development is important in the NHS, what was the Trust’s view on this?

The Trust would continue to build its Research and Development portfolios with over 80 research projects underway as it was increased research did play a part in attracting Consultants to work at the Trust. An Executive Director had also been assigned responsibility for R&D which would ensure a focused approach and build relationships with other research organisations.

There were increased difficulties in residential areas located near the hospital site due to staff and patients parking outside the hospital grounds. In order to be a responsible neighbour, what actions would the Trust be taking to address the impact on the surrounding residential areas?

Car parking formed an integral part of the Trust’s Site Utilisation Development Plan. In the coming months a large number of non clinical staff would be relocating to Woodside (the former Lombard building on Moorgate Road) which should alleviate some of the current problems on the main site. The Trust was also pursuing the option for a multi-storey car park and would be progressing this as quickly as possible through the local planning processes.
The Trust had recently changed its position in relation to permitting access to certain patient details for the Chaplaincy services; this may potentially have a detrimental effect for patients at a time when it may be most needed. What action was the Trust taking to resolve the issue?

The issue had been raised at the Council of Governors meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting where it had been noted that the Trust had reviewed its position in order to adhere with legislation. However, the Trust was taking further legal advice and would be investigating systems which could be implemented to ensure that patients and staff could receive timely spiritual support. The Trust was anticipating that this could be speedily resolved.

Could security within the hospital building be improved as there were no challenges to people walking onto wards or departments?

Some wards did have increased security arrangements such as the Special Care Baby Unit; however there had been no reported security incidents from the Trust’s current practice which would warrant such security measures. There needed to be a balance between access as the building and patients and visitors safety. However, the Trust would certainly look at the potential for improved security measures as part of the redevelopment plans for the Hospital building.

Mike Jennings, Senior Clinical Lecturer Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing (Sheffield University)/Partner Governor stated that the Trust should be congratulated on the high standard of training and education it provided to junior medical staff as was demonstrated when the Trust hosted the recent finals examinations as an Associate Teaching Hospital to the Sheffield University.

6. CLOSING STATEMENT

Mrs Oldfield closed the meeting by concluding that the Trust continued to move from strength to strength, which could not have been achieved without the support and contribution from all staff, the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors. The Trust also continued to develop strong working relationships with partner organisations such as NHS Rotherham and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council with the aim to provide excellent services to the people of Rotherham.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting would be held prior to 30th September 2010, the exact date, time and venue to be communicated in Member newsletters and via the local press agencies.