

18th September 2007

News Release

Hospital AGM Reports Another Successful Year

Local people came to the Annual General Meeting of the James Paget University Hospitals last night, the first since it became a Foundation Trust on 1st August 2006, still the only one in Norfolk and Suffolk. They heard that the hospital continues to perform very strongly, and has a bright future ahead. Reports of excellent financial performance, meeting targets for cancer patients, reductions in waiting lists, plus success as a teaching Trust in training well over a third of the UEA's medical students last year, were very well received by the audience.

Trust Chairman John Hemming opened the AGM, paying tribute to 'the fantastic efforts of our hospital staff in managing the fire in ICU last Wednesday, and getting the whole unit back up and running in just 48 hours. This showed the NHS at its very best, with excellent support from all our colleagues in the emergency services.'

John Hemming also noted the investment that has taken place on the site in the last year, saying: 'We have opened our new Coronary Care Unit, fully upgraded with new heart monitoring equipment. We have a bright new children's area in our A&E centre, dedicated to meeting the needs of our younger patients, and we have an integrated stroke unit, combining acute care and rehabilitation for patients.'

Julie Cave, Director of Finance, highlighted the Trust's continued success in meeting Government targets saying: '98% of our cancer patients are treated in just two months from urgent referral, and all patients with a suspicion of cancer are seen in just two weeks. We've also cut our waiting times, with no one waiting longer than 20 weeks for surgery, and all our patients being seen in 11 weeks in our outpatient clinics.'

Nick Coveney, Director of Nursing and Patient Services, reported on the Trust's progress on healthcare acquired infections, saying: 'The experience we gained during the C Diff 027 outbreak has been invaluable. Our Trust now has one of the lowest rates of MRSA **more...**

and C diff anywhere in the country. We are seen as a centre of excellence now, and we're working with other hospitals and the Department of Health to share our knowledge about healthcare acquired infections.'

Looking forward, Trust Chief Executive Arian Pennington said: 'We've just celebrated our first 25 years as the local hospital for the people of Great Yarmouth and Waveney. Now as a Foundation Trust, we must look forward to how healthcare will be provided to local people in the next 25 years. We are currently reviewing our estate to make sure that our capital investment programme of over £40 million will be best spent on what we need. I expect to report on the outcome of this review by the end of the year.'

He continued: 'This Trust has a very bright future. We will continue to meet the challenge of delivering new national targets for the NHS and continue to deliver the local health services that our population needs.'

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