

**Councillor Andrew Pope (Chair)**

Chair, Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel  
c/o Members' Services  
Southampton City Council  
Civic Centre  
Southampton  
SO14 7LY

10<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Councillor Pope,

**Re: Update letter from Solent NHS Trust**

Please find to follow an update on activities at Solent NHS Trust ahead of the HOSP meeting on 23 May.

**Foundation Trust status**

Solent NHS Trust started the new financial year in a strong position reporting compliance with quality requirements, contracts and finances. We are also pleased to be nearing the final stages of our journey to be licensed as a Foundation Trust (FT).

We are hoping the Trust Development Authority will give final assurances on our preparations to become a Foundation Trust at the end of May and we will then be referred to Monitor for its assessment. The Monitor assessment can take 3-5 months and will check our readiness to be a Foundation Trust. At the end of that process there will be a final Board to Board session between Solent NHS Trust and Monitor after which they will decide if we are ready to be licensed. We hope to be licensed as a Foundation Trust in the autumn of this year.

**Mental Health Awareness Week: 13-17 May**

Solent NHS Trust will be holding a range of events and activities for the communities it serves and its' staff to mark Mental Health Awareness Week from 13th – 17th May.

This year, the focus is on physical activity and how it can positively impact on good mental health and wellbeing, and will include wellness checks, ways to identify strengths in yourself and others and an opportunity to join Solent NHS Trust's Choir. To see a full list of the events we are holding, please visit our website [www.solent.nhs.uk](http://www.solent.nhs.uk) and click on the Mental Health Awareness Week banner.

**Fall in teenage pregnancy rates**

One of the key targets for Solent NHS Trust's Sexual Health Services is to reduce the teenage conception rate, and we are delighted that in 2012/13 the rates fell in Southampton by 6%, and were complemented by a 4% fall in Hampshire and 15% in Portsmouth.

The Solent NHS Trust teams have worked hard to make the marketing and accessibility of the contraceptive services relevant to young people. This includes a revamped website, prioritisation of young people in busy clinics, and an increase in use of long acting reversible contraception (LARC). Clearly many other agencies also have a role to play in reducing

**Chief Executive**  
Solent NHS Trust Headquarters  
Adelaide Health Centre  
William MacLeod Way  
Southampton  
SO16 4XE  
  
Tel: 023 8060 8815  
Fax: 023 8053 8740  
[www.solent.nhs.uk](http://www.solent.nhs.uk)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



teenage pregnancy, but we are proud to have played our role in improving the position on this important public health goal. The focus will continue into 2013/14.

### **Commissioning for Quality and Innovation**

The Trust has achieved 98% of the targets set under the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation framework (CQUIN) during 2012/13. These are additional initiatives often just for a year at a time, based around areas where commissioners would like to see some specific progress. In 2012/13 areas included better follow-up for dementia patients, reduced attendances at Emergency Departments and increased use of teleconferencing and Apps. One area where as a Trust we did particularly well was in the Portsmouth CAMHS service. The CQUIN was to provide training to foster carers and residential home staff to improve skills and confidence in looking after children with mental health issues. The target was to train 90 people and the team trained over 200 people as the training sessions were enthusiastically oversubscribed. The aim of the training was to enhance the carer's skills which would improve the children's health and wellbeing and reduce the need for interventions from primary care or other agencies.

### **Special and Occasional Care Dental Services**

The tender specification for Special and Occasional Care Dental Services issued to Solent NHS Trust by SHIP included a preference for a reduced number of clinics.

In accordance with this specification, we have closed 3 clinics across the Southampton area. We selected sites on the basis of local demographics and the specific area knowledge of incumbent providers. The priority was to minimise disruption and prioritise access for service users, while maintaining the highest level of quality care. We informed all active service users in advance, through direct correspondence and clear signage at affected clinics. A schedule of both retained and closed clinics is shown below:-

### **Special and Occasional Care Dental Services in Southampton from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013:**

<b>Full Name and address of each site</b>
Hythe Dental Clinic, The Medical Centre, Beaulieu Road, Hythe, SO45 4ZD
Romsey Dental Clinic, Rumsey Hospital, Winchester Road, Rumsey, SO51 8ZA
Bitterne Dental Clinic, Bitterne Health Centre, Commercial Street, Bitterne, Southampton, SO18 6BT
Millbrook Dental Clinic, Pickles Coppice Healthy Living Centre, 65 Windermere Avenue, Millbrook, Southampton, SO16 9QX
Dental Dept, Fanshawe Wing, Royal South Hants Hospital, Brintons Terrace, Southampton, SO14 0YG
Community Dental Clinic, Eastleigh Health Centre, Newtown Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9AG

All registered 'active' patients (i.e. those who have had an appointment in the last two years) were contacted by letter and informed of the changes. Posters were clearly displayed at each affected clinic.

### **Single Point of Access - making our services easier to contact**

The Trust is pleased to update you on our vision to create a Single Point of Access (SPA) for

our services. Over time the SPA will become the primary way that most healthcare professionals, patients, and members of the public contact us.

Through SPA, telephone calls, emails, and other communications will be managed effectively to improve access to our services. This means patients will be routed to the most appropriate care, giving clinicians a timely response while maximising our clinical time with patients. The SPA represents the way Solent NHS Trust intends to place local patient care at the centre of what we do.

The intention is that SPA will provide a 24/7 point of contact for most of our services.

Solent NHS Trust's Podiatry Services in Southampton are currently in the process of moving to SPA. To help ensure podiatry's transition to SPA runs smoothly, we taking a two-phased approach:

- From Tuesday 28 May 2013, all patients will book their appointments via SPA on 0300 300 2012.
- All referrers enquiring about patients or services can use the dedicated health professionals phone number 0300 300 2011.

Please note, all referrals will still be required to be addressed and/or faxed to the existing Podiatry address and secure fax number until further notice.

It is envisaged that by November 2013, all aspects of podiatry administrative procedures including referral management and appointment bookings will be run by SPA.

### **Membership**

At the end of March 2013, the Trust met its target to recruit 6,000 members. We are now aiming to recruit a further 300 members across the region by the end of June.

### **Governorship**

As part of becoming a Foundation Trust, Solent NHS Trust needs to establish a Council of Governors and is looking for people to stand for election at our forthcoming elections to be held in summer 2013. Governors help set the strategic direction of the Trust and work with the Board of Directors to ensure that the Trust behaves in a way that is consistent with its constitution and objectives. They should engage with their members to ensure their views are taken into account. Candidates do not have to have a public sector or NHS background.

If you have any questions regarding any of the issues mentioned in this correspondence, please contact Kirstie Henry on 023 8060 8889 or email [kirstie.henry@solent.nhs.uk](mailto:kirstie.henry@solent.nhs.uk) or contact me direct as above

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Ros Tolcher**  
**Chief Executive**