

## Board Paper for 18 January

### Corporate Governance

At the Away Day in November 1994 we discussed whether the Board should adapt its proceedings and those of its advisory groups to match the developing needs of the NHS. From these discussions and my own thoughts on the matter I have distilled change proposals for further discussion. In my view the changes proposed are not radical but they do reflect my perception that the NHS will continue to increase the pressure on Trusts to improve efficiency in both patient care and financial performance. To respond to these challenges I believe that we as a Trust Board need to have mechanisms in place which allow us to constantly review our performance, particularly in relation to the setting and achieving of standards.

The proposals that I would like to see adopted are as follow. They are in a form that I hope we can agree in principle then formalise them as a revision of the Standing Orders.

#### **Board Mission**

The Trust Board is responsible for all aspects of Trust performance. The commitment of the Board is to manage a Trust that has the highest clinical, research, teaching, financial and ethical standards and which is at the forefront of medical practice within the NHS.

The Trust aims to meet or surpass all relevant national patient care standards while meeting its commitments to teaching and research.

The Board operates as a unitary Board, setting policies that are the responsibility of the Executive Management team to carry out.

The non-executive Directors of the Board are there to assist the Executive Directors in any ways possible. They have a particular responsibility to work with the Executive Directors in the setting and monitoring of standards in all areas of physical and financial activity.

The Board is supported by a number of Committees which are described below. Each committee is chaired by a non-executive Director with the exception of the Medical Audit Committee

The Board Committees are as follow :-

- Finance
- Patient Care Standards
- Marketing and Development
- Personnel
- Commercial Services and Estates
- Medical Audit
- Audit