

Trust Board

TB2008.1

From: Mr Trevor Campbell Davis, Chief Executive
Date: January 2008
Subject: **Chief Executive's Report**
For: **Information**

This short report summarises Trust performance and matters of current interest.

1. As reported in November, the Trust's financial position has been significantly affected by a shortfall in planned income. I am pleased to be able to report that mitigating action has been effective, and that the Trust has achieved a financial surplus in November and December. Further information is set out in the accompanying paper from the Director of Finance (TB2008.2).
2. The Trust's clinical performance remains strong in respect of elective access targets, including inpatient, outpatient and diagnostic maximum waits, cancer services and 18 week targets. Achieving emergency access targets has continued to be exceptionally challenging, with the number of medical admissions in the past two months considerably exceeding our bed capacity. The problem is compounded by an unacceptable number of delayed discharges, where it has not been possible safely to return patients to a community or home environment. This matter has again been raised with urgency with both Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire PCT.
3. The ORH continues to work closely with South Central Strategic Health Authority during planning for authorisation as a Foundation Trust. The Chief Executive of the SHA has written to the Trust to acknowledge the substantial progress made during the past year, and to give the SHA's commitment to support the ORH during the application process.
4. The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), which is currently reviewing the Trust's proposals for changes to maternity, paediatric and gynaecology services at the Horton Hospital, will conclude its work in Oxfordshire by the end of January. The Trust has facilitated a number of meetings for the IRP, to enable them to hear evidence from a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, patient and community groups, and the local media. The IRP will report to the Secretary of State for Health in mid-February, and its report will be published approximately

one month later.

5. I am pleased to report that Professor Alastair Buchan has been appointed Head of the Medical Sciences Division of the University of Oxford, upon the demitting of Dr Kenneth Fleming on 30 September 2008. The Division is responsible for medical education and biomedical research, and works in close co-operation with the Trust. Professor Buchan, who is a distinguished neurologist and stroke specialist, is currently Head of the John Radcliffe Division of the University's Nuffield Department of Medicine, and is also Director of the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre. Professor Buchan joined the University of Oxford in 2005 from the University of Calgary, where he was Head of the Calgary Stroke Programme.
6. I am pleased also to report that Professor John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine, was knighted in the 2008 New Year's Honours List, and to note his outstanding contribution to the work of the University and the Trust.
7. I also take pleasure in reporting that Mrs Vickie Holcroft, PFI Project Director for Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals, has been appointed MBE for her services to the NHS. Vickie, who has worked for the ORH since 2000, oversaw the development of the West Wing and the Children's Hospital, and the relocation of services from the Radcliffe Infirmary to the John Radcliffe Hospital in January 2007. She is currently overseeing the development of the Cancer and Haematology Centre at the Churchill Hospital, due to open this summer, and is the Project Director for the implementation of the Oxfordshire CRS project.
8. On 25 January, the Trust is celebrating the first anniversary of the opening of the Children's Hospital and West Wing. The new buildings have been warmly received by staff and patients. We estimate that more than 60,000 children have used the new facilities during the past year. The event will be marked by an informal celebration attended by supporters, patients, staff and Board members, to which all are invited. This will take place from 1.45 pm, in the public atrium of the new facilities.

The opening of the Cancer and Haematology Centre at the Churchill Hospital, and the new Geratology Department at the John Radcliffe, will both take place later this year.