

Chair's Report – June 2012

Since the last meeting of the Forum I have attended the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust Board meeting on May 29th (there is a report of this in the papers for tonight's meeting). I have also met with Margaret Vander, Head of Patient & Public Involvement and Public Education on May 28th to discuss the work of the Forum and will be meeting with Margaret again on June 25th. We also discussed speakers and involvement by the LAS at the June and July meetings of the Forum. I have requested that Shirley Rush, Membership Officer for the Foundation Trust, speak at this month's meeting regarding an update on where things are at with the FT status but she is unable to and will attend the July meeting instead. I also requested that Charley Goddard from the LAS attend this month's meeting to report on the staff survey but she will attend next month's meeting. I have also invited Richard Hunt, LAS Chair, to attend this month's meeting or the July meeting but he has responded that he is unable to attend either. I am hoping that he will be able to join us in September.

At the Trust Board meeting on May 29th, I invited Peter Bradley, outgoing Chief Executive of the LAS, to attend our AGM in September and he has agreed. Peter will be leaving the LAS on September 9th.

I liaised with our Vice Chair, Lynne Strother of London Older People's Forum, regarding having speakers for tonight's meeting on older people and would like to thank Lynne for her assistance in organising a speaker from the LOPF.

I also held a board meeting of the Forum on June 6th in order to lay out plans for the AGM, the presentation of the annual accounts and our Annual Report. The Forum's AGM will be held on Monday 3rd September and the call for nominations and other relevant papers will be going out in the mailing for the July meeting. I have arranged to work with Malcolm Alexander on the production of our Annual Report. I wish to state now, as I have already informed Forum officers, that I will not be standing for election as either Chair or Vice Chair at the AGM and am hoping that new candidates will come forward to stand for office. I believe that this is a pivotal point in the history of the Forum and the LAS, with the Chief Executive leaving in September and Foundation Trust status likely to be awarded to the LAS next March. I think it is imperative to have some new people at the helm of the Forum during this important time.

I believe that there are a number of important long term and strategic decisions which the Forum needs to address and I am hoping that these will be discussed at the AGM in September.

The issue of membership funds was raised at the last meeting and a request for membership subscriptions from both individual Forum members and affiliated organisations has been issued. I hope that there will be a good response to this request.

Dr Joseph Healy