



Foundation Trust - Christmas Newsletter

Seasons Greetings from the Chairman

I am pleased to report that the Trust is on target to resubmit its application for Foundation Trust status to the Department of Health on January 28th. We hope that this will lead to our authorisation during the summer 2008.

This means that over the course of the New Year we shall be holding elections onto the Council of Members and running this in “shadow” form in readiness for when we become a Foundation Trust. If you are interested in standing for election, or simply want to find out more, please take the opportunity to contact Christine, our Membership Manager – her details are below.

Since the Annual General Meeting in September there have been a number of new developments across the Trust, which I wanted to share with you and you will find details of these overleaf.

Some of our Members have recently attended an exclusive, “Health for Members” presentation on the work of the ROCKET team and we hope to hold more of this type of session throughout 2008 as part of a programme of special events and communications designed to bring you as a member completely up to date with events at the hospital.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff at Kettering General Hospital to wish you our very best wishes for the Christmas season and an extremely prosperous and happy New Year.

Steve Hone
Chairman



News updates since the Annual Report

November 30 – Trust announced it has succeeded in becoming the host site for the national bowel cancer-screening programme for Leicestershire and Northamptonshire

October 24 – Trust introduced a new and more effective test for all pregnant mums which assists in screening for Down's Syndrome

October 2 - Trust won an award from the British Fire Services Association for the outstanding way it trains its own staff to deal with fires and evacuation procedures.

September 17 – Trust announces it has spent £10,000 on equipment to help treat skin cancers and improve life for people with certain skin conditions

September 12 – Trust held a Mother and Baby Roadshow, which helped some 300 parents-to-be to plan for their big day with the help of experts in a wide variety of childcare areas

September 10 – Trust took delivery of a £70,000 new mobile breast-screening unit to serve the north of the county. The unit improves facilities for the 7,500 women aged 50-70 which the Trust screens each year as part of the national breast screening programme.

Annual Health Check – Trust moves up the scale

October 18 – The Trust improved its ratings in the national Annual Health Check.

It received rankings of '**good**' for its use of resources (financial management) and '**fair**' for quality of services.

Further analysis showed that the Trust was very close to receiving a **good** rating for quality of services. Improvements were needed in infection control, emergency planning and complaints handling.

Infection Control campaign is a success

The Trust had a high rate of C difficile in 2005/2006 but it is now on target to reduce cases by 50% by March 2008. Initiatives, which are helping, include:

December 3- Trust launched a £1m four-month long deep clean of all its 50 wards and clinical areas in line with Government guidance

November 28 – Trust put in place 450 new mattresses and 100 new beds at a cost of £200,000 to improve cleanliness

September 24 – Trust spent £60,000 buying new equipment to improve infection control and announced it had successfully cut C difficile infections by 35% over the first 8 months of 2007.

Ongoing projects – The Trust has carried out a series of additional infection control measures including introducing a screening project which looked at how likely a patient was to go on to develop an infection – and then treating them in a particular way to avoid this.

Council of Members – We will be holding some candidate workshops in January for those interested in standing for election onto the Council of Members, these workshop will give you an insight as to what is involved in the role.

If you would like to come along (without obligation) please contact Christine Thorndyke on 01536 492169 or email Christine.Thorndyke@kgh.nhs.uk

