

News Release

9 September 2010

New era begins at Dorset County Hospital

The Chairman of Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust promised a new era of openness, transparency and honesty at last night's (Sept 8) Annual Members' Meeting and AGM.

Dr Jeffrey Ellwood told a packed public meeting at the Brownsword Hall in Poundbury that it was time to stop going over the mistakes of the past that had led to the Trust's well-publicised financial problems and look forward to a bright future under the strong leadership of a new executive team.

Dr Ellwood introduced the new permanent members of the Trust Board – Chief Executive Jean O'Callaghan, Director of Finance and Resources Bill Boa and Director of Human Resources Mark Power. He said he was confident that the Board now had the drive, experience and vision to take the Trust's recovery plans forward and secure the future and quality of services for patients at DCH.

Chief Executive Jean O'Callaghan gave an overview of the issues facing the Trust and outlined her priorities for the year ahead. These include meeting or exceeding quality standards and performance targets, achieving recovery plan targets, improving staff engagement and morale, restoring confidence and reputation with the community and strengthening relationships with key commissioners and agencies.

Members of the public gathered at the meeting also heard reports from Director of Finance and Resources Bill Boa and Lead Governor Dr Peter Camm, and were given the chance to put forward their comments and questions.

As part of the spirit of openness of the Trust Board, their monthly meetings will now be held in public. The dates for these meetings can be found on the Trust's website at <http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/about/trust-board.html> Agendas and papers for these meetings will be available on the website.

The dates for the meetings and surgery sessions of the Trust's Board of Governors can be found on the website here <http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/foundation/council.html> , where you can also find out how you can support the Trust by becoming a member.

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