

STOP PRESS – FT Approval Received!



The Trust has now received approval from Monitor. From Monday 1st August, 2011, the hospital is now an NHS Foundation Trust. Today the Council of Governors met and the Chair and Non Executive Directors have been appointed.

Becoming authorised as an NHS Foundation Trust is a huge achievement for the hospital – the assessment standards set by Monitor are extremely high and we have met these criteria in demonstrating that we are

- financially viable
- meeting the highest quality standards
- well governed in terms of our ability to manage our own hospital.

This marks an important stage in our development. We will need to demonstrate that we are delivering the requirements of our commissioners and the expectations of our patients - from now we will be judged more closely and will need to demonstrate achievement of the highest standards consistently through the year. This scrutiny will be internally through our Board, the Council of Governors and Members, and externally through Monitor.

Russell Hardy, Chairman said: "Many congratulations and thanks to all staff on this fantastic achievement, which is a reflection of our collective hard work and team effort. Everyone involved in the hospital has played a crucial role in this success. We are fortunate to have clinical, health professional, support and voluntary teams who share a commitment to delivering outstanding patient care. I am confident that we can now build on this organisational platform to become the UK's leading centre for orthopaedic and related care."



Right: Mr Joy Roy Chowdhury, Consultant Surgeon in Spinal Injuries and Rehabilitation Medicine, Wendy Farrington Chadd, RJAH Chief Executive and Andrew Lansley CBE MP, Secretary of State for Health at the Midlands Centre for Spinal injuries, Oswestry on the eve of the Foundation Trust status launch.

Foundation Trust - what it means:

Having achieved NHS Foundation Trust status, the Trust will benefit from a variety of new freedoms because NHS Foundation Trusts:

- are free from central government control and are able to decide how to improve their services;
- retain any surpluses they generate to invest in new services, and can borrow money to support these investments;
- are accountable to their local communities; local people can become members and governors.

These freedoms mean NHS Foundation Trusts can better shape their healthcare services around local needs and priorities and the requirements of their commissioners.

Council of Governors' meeting:



The next meeting will be on Thursday 24th November, 2011 at The Venue, Oswestry.

Update: Membership Numbers



The current membership total is 4,287. Made up of 2,600 public members, 1,138 staff and 549 volunteers.

If you currently receive this by post, please can you tell us if there is someone you know, that we can email this bulletin to instead?

This enables us to be cost and environmentally friendly.

Either way, please encourage your friends and family to sign up as members of our NHS Foundation Trust!