

<b>Report to:</b>	Board of Directors				
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	28 October 2015				
<b>Report Title:</b>	Chairman's Briefing				
<b>Status:</b>	<b>For information</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Assurance</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Regulatory requirement</b>
Mark relevant box with X	X				
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Michael Luger, Chairman				
<b>Executive Sponsor (presenting):</b>	N/A				
<b>Appendices (list if applicable):</b>	None				
<b>Purpose of the Report</b>					
To inform the Board of the Chairman's activities.					
<b>Action required of the Board of Directors</b>					
To receive and note the report.					

<b>Key points for information</b>
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My thoughts this month are dominated by our tragic loss – Mike Toop's untimely passing. We will miss him personally. But we are also left with a gaping hole on the Board. Mike played such an important role as a bridge between the Board and the consultant community, having the knowledge and experience to understand the quality reports and the mind set of clinicians.

One of my activities in the past month was to chair a meeting of ARC, in which we discussed the recruitment of two NEDs to fill the posts to be vacated on retirement by Ron and Sally. Two at the same time would have been challenging, requiring a larger and wider pool of qualified candidates. ARC will have to decide at its next meeting how best to approach the recruitment of three NEDs.

I attended several external events since the last Board meeting: a meeting of West and North Yorkshire chairs, an open house in Bradford for 14-17 year old students, and a lunch at Bradford University hosted by BT. The two main topics at the Yorkshire chairs' meeting were winter planning and efficiency savings. All Trusts are facing the same challenges in their preparation for increased demand for services in the winter. We agreed to work together to share information and to pool available beds at crunch times. We were fortunate to have had Lord Carter attend the meeting to present his report on procurement and cost savings personally. He talked about ways that Trusts who may think savings have been exhausted can still find efficiencies, and the work he is continuing to do to create comparison benchmarks. The event for students in Bradford had several positive aspects. It was sponsored jointly by us, BDCFT, BTHFT, the Bradford CCGs and Airedale Wharfedale Craven CCG, and Barnardo's and other voluntary groups in attendance – establishing a precedent we need to follow more often. Last year young people challenged the NHS to do something of relevance for their age group. This was our response. Over 500 students came to visit stalls and to interact with NHS leadership in the region, talking about how they can access health care and develop careers in the NHS locally. The BT lunch was a good networking session. The topic was digital health, so of course, Airedale received a lot of attention.

Within our own FT, I attended a meeting of the Stakeholder Governors and the monthly Network session, in which I gave the attendees an update and further discussion of Governor involvement on working groups. That rethink is on hold as Jane finalises and conducts the annual survey of Governors. Jeremy

also was the invited NED and did a super job explaining his work on the Board. The Governors referred to it as the model for all of us to follow. I also met with our fundraising manager, Chris Fish, about her plan going forward.

Finally, the Board may be interested to know that I have accepted Ed Smith's invitation to join a group of 15-20 chairmen from around the UK who will advise NHS Improvement on various matters. It can only help Airedale NHSFT to be represented around the table, expressing the views from an organisation like ours that is relatively small, and community-based.

### **Recommendations**

To receive and note the Chairman's Briefing.