

PRESS RELEASE

April 2009

NEW INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THE MIN

Kirsty Matthews has been appointed Interim Chief Executive of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust, also known as the Min.

Kirsty succeeds Peter Hill in order to allow him to return to his role as Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Operations at Salisbury NHS FT.

The RNHRD's Director of Corporate Strategy, Stephen Cole, will take over Kirsty's current role as Chair of the hospital.

Monitor will use their formal powers of intervention to appoint both Kirsty and Stephen into these interim positions.

During his time at the RNHRD Peter has worked hard to improve the long-term sustainability and financial well being of the Trust, and, with the help of a strong team of Executive and Non Executive Directors, Peter has led the organisation through a financially challenging time.

"I have really enjoyed my time at the Min. Wanting what's best for the patient is embedded across all levels in the organisation, and the standard of care is excellent" said Peter

"The Trust has made good progress in the delivery of the recovery plan, and thanks to the efforts of all the staff, we have moved from the deficit of £420k incurred for the financial year 2007/08 to an expected small in-year surplus for the first time since 2004/05.

"Although the Trust remains in a challenging situation, the staff continue to rise to these challenges and demonstrate real teamwork in the ongoing delivery of the recovery plan. Both Kirsty and Stephen are well placed and fully committed to continuing to drive this forward."

Part of the Trust's recovery plan was the decision by the Board to seek a merger partner. The Board is currently in the process of identifying a potential NHS Trust or NHS FT with which to merge.

Kirsty Matthews, Interim Chief Executive said,

"Our aim is to ensure that the high quality services we offer to our patients continue to develop and grow, and are financially sustainable in the long-term."

"Both myself and Stephen look forward to taking the organisation forward, and progressing plans for merger with a partner who shares our aims.

"Clinical care will not be adversely affected, and we will strive to maintain our excellent clinical reputation throughout and beyond this process.

“The Trust has been rated ‘excellent’ for quality of services by the Healthcare Commission for the past three years, and remains fully committed to providing and improving its range of high quality services, in a safe, clean environment.

“Peter leaves the Trust with thanks for all he has contributed during his time here.”

ENDS

Press contact: Emma Mooney 01225 465941 ext 211, emma.mooney@rnhrd.nhs.uk

Notes to Editors:

- Stephen Cole was, for 21 years a partner at KPMG and has significant corporate experience, and has been at the RNHRD, as Director of Corporate Strategy, since December 2008.
- Kirsty Matthews was appointed as a Non Executive Director of the RNHRD in Dec 2007, and was Vice Chair and Senior Independent Director of the Trust Board. When the Chair of the Trust stood down in December 2008 Monitor has used its formal powers of intervention to appoint Kirsty Matthews as Interim Chair. Kirsty was previously Director of Strategy for a private healthcare provider and has a background in General Management in the NHS.