

29th August 2013

Press Release

RNHRD CHAIRMAN COMPLETES TERM OF OFFICE, NEW CHAIR APPOINTED

Peter Franklyn, Chair of the Trust Board and Chair of the Council of Governors at The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (RNHRD), known locally as the 'Min', is to stand down from his role at the end of August 2013 on completion of his three year term of office.

Kirsty Matthews, CEO of the RNHRD says: "We are very grateful to Peter for his significant contribution to the Trust during what has been a particularly challenging time. Peter has consistently provided strong leadership and sound management whilst maintaining an effective and crucial link between the governors and the Trust."

Kirsty continues: "We wish Peter the very best; we know he will continue to be an enthusiastic supporter of the Trust as we plan for our future."

Peter's previous roles include Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Hospital for Neuro Disability and prior to that a full and varied career in the Royal Navy.

Reflecting on his time at the 'Min', Peter says: "One cannot be involved with the 'Min' as a Board member without recognising at first hand the commitment, imagination and innovation that mark this hospital out as a dedicated provider of services to those in need of long term specialist care. It has been a privilege to Chair the Trust Board and Council of Governors for the past three years and I am indebted to all concerned for their support and hard work during this time."

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Eugene Sullivan will take up the role of Chair at the Bath based RNHRD. Eugene has over 40 years' experience as a public sector auditor and accountant and his previous roles include Chief Executive of the Audit Commission and Head of Public Sector Services at RSM Robson Rhodes LLP, now Grant Thornton.

Eugene says: "I am looking forward to building on the solid work that Peter has undertaken over the last three years. It is clear to me that the 'Min' inspires a great deal of warmth, respect and loyalty amongst patients, staff and the public."

Eugene adds: "I am aware of the high levels of patient satisfaction and quality of care at the Min and the importance of continuing to uphold these standards as we plan for the future of our organisation."

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Notes to Editors

- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people, the trust has expertise in general and complex:
 - Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
 - Chronic pain management
 - Fatigue Management (CFS/ME and cancer survivorship fatigue)
 - www.rnhrd.nhs.uk