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FRIENDS OF YEATMAN HOSPITAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Context

This is the third year that I have had the privilege of addressing our AGM. It is right and proper that we as your Executive Committee take this opportunity to take stock of the activities of the Friends over this last year, give you an indication of our intentions for the next year, and to give you the opportunity to challenge and question us and to share your opinions.

As an overview, your hospital, the Yeatman, has continued to ride high on a deserved reputation of excellent clinical care. It has done so, while displaying progressive thinking for the improvement of its individual patient's care, those being either in-patients or those community patients receiving care out with the hospital. The Yeatman's influence reaches well beyond Hospital Lane, and the support of the Friends follows wherever the Yeatman leads.

All of that has been supported by regular financial donations to the Friends – large and small – both equally appreciated – underscored by both routine and strategic financial management.

This last year has presented its challenges. We continue to observe and adapt to the realities of the Dorset Clinical Review, which reported in 2017, ensuring the role of the Yeatman as a community hospital with beds. The Yeatman will remain central to the delivery of Health Care within the future North Dorset area hospital plan, with the prospect of significant enhancements both in its roles and medical specialisations.

We had hoped that the amalgamation of our local GP Practices would lead to a centralisation of the GPs at the Yeatman, but regrettably that proposal is not to be carried forward and hence a number of ambitious prospects for the Yeatman have been shelved, perhaps permanently

While work closely with the Dorset Health Executive Team we were disappointed by the withdrawal of some the Out-Patient Clinics based at the Yeatman which were funded by Yeovil District Hospital. Supported by Dorset Council we are challenging the rationale for the Clinics' cessation, while Matron is endeavouring to reinstate the clinics through Dorset Health Care Trust funds.

We place the Staff of both the clinical and administrative teams as the key component of the Yeatman's success. Nonetheless, we should also acknowledge the capacity for our community to drive that success which is manifest in two aspects – the pride and ownership that our community feels for the hospital and, secondly, the focus of community service, which drives the Staff to perform at ever higher levels.

Both aspects of community serve the common whole. In the drive for economies of scale, the integration of services and resources, we need to continue to pursue that recognition – value over cost for a satisfied and well-served community – in the interests of both the Staff's delivery, and their patients' receipt of clinical best practice.

In Year Achievement

The main planning vehicle for evaluation of our Capital Projects is our Strategy Planning Committee, which meets quarterly with representation from the DHCT.

By this means we ensure our aspirations are affordable and deliverable in appropriate time frames. This enables us, in

conjunction with Matron, to respond to both the personal needs of the patients, as well as contributing to hospital infrastructure and equipment projects.

Our Capital Planning remains on track. Over the next 3 financial years we could if appropriate support Capital Projects up to a total of £600k.

Palliative Care

We provided major funding over the past three years to extend the Yeatman's resources relating to End of Life Care through the addition of a second suite – the Ada Kearvell Suite – to complement the existing Jean King Suite. Both suites have provided great comfort for mind and body over recent months, and we shall finally complete the Ada Kearvell purpose-built suite with the official opening of its garden on 20 September.

Continual Enhancement

The NHS is responsible for Yeatman's infrastructure, but to ensure our patients receive their care in good time and within decent surroundings, we remain committed to a funding programme of continual improvement.

Earlier this year we initiated a strategic pause while the GPs' plans were under consideration, but since the decision I referred to earlier, we are now planning the following future projects.

- **New Project – Re-Adjust Mental Health Clinic and Office Space.** It is planned that the Older Persons' Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) will move their clinics from Stewart Lodge into the Out Patients Department and their office space will move to the top corridor. The Adult CMHT would move out of Ashley Elm into the space created in Stewart Lodge. The priority is to make a significant positive difference to the working environment of this patient group. We anticipate allocating £10,000 to this project. Matron's suite will move to Ashley Elm making her working environment more accessible to the Willows; this has been a long-term aspiration.

- **Upgrading Clinic Rooms in Outpatients (OPD) and Waiting Area.** This is linked to the DCCG Proposals of moving 80% of outpatient clinics to Community Hospitals, which implies for the YH a modernisation of its OPD – over a 2-year project at a cost of £25K per room; first stage completed in Jul. The Committee is considering committing funds to upgrade of a further two OPD rooms for 2019/20 and the upgrade of the old waiting area of OPD which is now in stark negative contrast to the X-ray corridor.

Community Projects – Yeatman Out Reach

Restricted Funds Mental Health. In order to employ restricted legacy funds for Mental Health we are supporting the Rendezvous Emotionally Connected Sherborne Project, which is focussed on supporting the youth within our community who have with Mental Health issues. Our contribution is £10,000 over 12 months, and this balances with our plans to support Matron's internal to Yeatman's mental health Clinics reorganisation I mentioned earlier

Minor Projects

The following projects have been approved:

- **Bladder Scanner.** Purchase at £4.5K. The current equipment has failed and a purchase through NHS funds would be protracted.

- **HoverJack Bed.** This is a motorised inflatable bed. A patient falling out of bed is high risk requiring sensitive treatment and procedures. Purchase £9.5K

- **X Ray Department** – We have funded a high-tech state of the art couch – improving the comfort of the patient under examination and enabling the Radiology Staff to produce more effective X-Rays.

- **Staff Rest Area** – We are also supporting the Hospital Staff with a discreet rest area.

The Years Ahead 19/20 and 20/21

We shall continue to provide our programme of Patients' Benefits and all facets of our routine support to the YH, while ensuring we complete our obligations to our agreed Capital Projects as they progress through FY 2019/20; supported by our fundraising and other income generating activities.

We shall review options for our support to future Capital Projects, in tandem with the DHCT Plans, to ensure that our contributions remain within our Objects and are enduring.

Our Enablers

Our Volunteers. I place these at the top of my list of those who make FOYH happen. The above achievements and future deliverables represent the higher strategic level work of your Committee. But I cannot stress my gratitude more highly for all those Friends and the friends of our Friends who have volunteered throughout the year, be it for individual fund-raising events, our Friendship Collectors, or our Trolley Ladies, our Gardeners and Flower Arrangers who provide a sense of friendship and normality for the patients on the wards.

But I have a plea, we need more volunteers to help us to run events, so please come forward as a volunteer giving your details to Linsley our Administrative Secretary, or if you already are a volunteer, please encourage your friends to follow your lead.

Finance. As you will hear from our Treasurer John Thompson, we are in good order both in year and for the future, being able to meet our objects while operating true to our Reserves Policy. Our funds have come from a range of sources, from individual donations, large events and smaller family initiatives, and of course through legacies. But we do not take any of that for granted and we recognise our core income comes from the Friends, and in recognition of that fact over the last two years we have invested both time and money in new support systems and to improve our inter-action with the Friends.

Friends. For some years we have operated our Friendship scheme based on an out-dated database and a heavy reliance on our loyal Collectors. That is in the process of improvement:

- **Context.** Under the professional guidance of Gillian Gunner our Website Developer in consultation with our Trustee for Friendship and Administrative Secretary, two pieces of work have come to fruition:
- **New FOYH Website** – This has proved very popular – and is being copied by our sister organizations within Dorset – it is lighter on the eye, easier to navigate and importantly easier to use for new Members to join
- **Friends Data Base** - We have established a new Data Base and we now know who our Friends are and accurately how many there are – 1292. In the longer term this database will enable us to interact more directly with the Friends and to manage our funds more efficiently.

I have judged these to be essential investments in order to retain contact with our most valuable resource – our current Friends and to attract new ones, while enhancing our overall efficiency as a Charity of substance.

Communications and Marketing. We have established a highly dynamic Communications and Marketing Group. While maintaining our local informal means of fundraising, we are exploring the local corporate and business sectors' appetites to sponsor the Friends in order to generate new avenues of income, and the indications have been very positive.

Importantly, we do not invest in any electronic web campaigns or monthly donation mailings, which could lead to harassment of prospective donors. That said there is a tremendous energy and imagination amongst many of our supporters, which we must be more able to advertise and encourage.

Local Donors and Sponsorship. We have been hugely impressed and grateful for the support we have received from local institutions to name a few - Cheap Street Church, Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Greenslade Taylor Hunt Festive Shopping and the Mayor's Quiz Night, huge gratitude goes out to them all.

As an indication of how the public views your charity, we were Sainsbury's Local Charity of the Year 2018, and this year we have been selected as the lead charity for the Blackmore Vale Magazine's Business Awards.

Community Liaison. An aspect of our Community Liaison, which is proving very positive, is the development of our relationship with our local schools. This started with visits by students with an inclination to the Health Care Profession from the International School and has since included the Gryphon and Sherborne Girls' School and in the autumn Sherborne Boys' and Leweston Schools, pitched at the Lower 6th forms. We are considering sponsorship of a form of medical training linked-back to employment within the Yeatman, and we have supported a new nurse in training by purchasing textbooks.

Governance

Committee Structures/Reorganisation. We have taken steps to ensure our Committee remains approachable, effective and efficient. I have commissioned a review under our Vice-Chairperson, of our Governance Procedures to ensure we remain compliant with the revision of our Constitution in order that that it remains applicable to the Charity's development particularly within the IT arena, and are compliant with GDPR legislation and the roles of our Committee's officers, and that our sub-committees are properly constituted with bespoke terms of reference. Our safeguarding procedures are being developed to support all our helpers.

Conclusion

The Friends of Yeatman Hospital has had a challenging but good year. The proof of that success is not just in the projects we have funded or sponsored, but also more importantly in the apparent contentment of the hospital's patients, and the whole effort of the professional Staff, our volunteers and the local community who all contribute to make it so.

We shall continue the Friends' behalf to represent the Yeatman's interest within the DCCG Review and in our dealings the Dorset Health Care Trust.

To all of those involved in the Friends of Yeatman Hospital enterprise, thank you for your ideas your support, and of course your generous financial contributions. Please let them continue to so enable us to report another successful year when we meet again at next year's AGM.

DGH

CHAIRMAN

11 September 2019