

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date: 29 July 2010

Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust fully understands the reasons why Monitor's Board has reached the decision announced today.

The Board of Directors at Poole Hospital has learnt from the experiences of 2009/10, and is determined to restore the hospital to financial health as soon as possible.

In April we started to implement a large scale and complex financial recovery plan that has clinical quality and improved efficiency as its cornerstone. We have strengthened our Board governance and financial reporting arrangements to ensure greater accountability and transparency. The Trust has appointed a new Finance Director, Paul Turner, who starts work with us in September, and an experienced Interim Finance/Recovery Director, Martin Sheldon, who will drive through the required changes.

We have in post a new Chief Executive, Chris Bown, with previous experience of NHS financial recovery, and have secured much needed additional specialist capacity. This will ensure that we deliver what is necessary to address all of Monitor's concerns as quickly as possible whilst ensuring that patient safety continues to be our top priority.

We would like to assure our patients that Monitor's concerns do not reflect upon the quality of care provided to our patients and during this period of recovery we will continue to focus on providing the very highest quality of clinical service. Poole Hospital has an excellent track record for high standards of clinical care. Last year we were named 'safest hospital in the UK', rated as 'excellent' for our clinical services by the Care Quality Commission and have recently received 'excellent' scores for standards of food, hygiene and patient privacy from the National Patient Safety Agency.

The Poole Hospital philosophy of patient-centred care will drive further improvements in the services we provide to our patients. We will emerge from this challenging period stronger both in financial and in clinical terms.

Ends

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