



December 29th, 2015

## South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chairman steps down

Peter Davidson is standing down after almost 20 years as Chairman of local health services in South Tyneside.

Mr Davidson said: "It has been my great pleasure to have been part of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and I can look back with great pride at the achievements of our wonderful staff and the fantastic developments we have made in service improvement and compassionate patient care."

One of the highlights of his term in office was the achievement of Foundation Trust status 10 years ago, despite at the time being one of the smallest acute trusts in England. Another milestone was the successful integration within the Trust in 2011 of community health services in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, which provided the basis of the Trust's current vision to be the premier combined hospital, community and wellbeing provider in the country.

Trust Chief Executive Steve Williamson said: "Peter has been a tremendous Chairman, who genuinely cares for the community we serve, and his contribution to our work will be greatly missed. He has been totally committed to ensuring that our patients receive the very best care and that our staff enjoy working with the organisation."

Mr Davidson will be succeeded as Chairman on January 1st by Neil Mundy. Mr Mundy is a chartered public finance accountant with many years' experience in healthcare and economic regeneration. He has held Executive and Non-Executive roles in public, private and third sector organisations in the North East and London, including most recently Non-Executive Director and Audit Committee Chair at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Davidson was formerly a South Tyneside councillor, a member of the Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority and Chairman of South Tyneside Homes. In his professional life, he was a senior business executive and Senior Vice President of Marsh, an international insurance and risk management corporation.

He said: "My time with the Trust has, at times, been tough and very challenging but I have had the privilege to work with a fantastic Executive Team, led by Lorraine Lambert, who retired in September after 18 years as Chief Executive, and was succeeded by Steve Williamson. Together with the Non- Executive Directors, who over the years have provided constructive challenge and support, they have been an exemplar for other organisations.

"My admiration for each and every member of staff knows no bounds. Day in, day out, they strive for excellence – always with care and compassion. I am also very grateful to the



dedicated volunteers who give their support in many ways, providing additional financial resources but, more importantly, caring support to patients and their families. We have always put our patients first and adopted the approach and culture of 'Board to ward', which is to care for colleagues in the same way we need them to care for our patients in hospital and the community."

He added: "As I leave, I am pleased to report that, despite the financial pressures on public sector services, the organisation is in great shape. I know our new leadership team is prepared to meet increasingly difficult targets and ensure safe and sustainable services into the future. There is already evidence of their ambition with the construction work in the grounds of South Tyneside District Hospital for Haven Court which, when it opens in 2016, will be a shining example, regionally and nationally, of integrated care for older people."

He said there were many other initiatives, particularly in partnership with other NHS, Local Authority and voluntary organisations, to be announced in the future.

**ends**

*Pictured above: Peter Davidson, left, with South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chairman Steve Williamson*

*Neil Mundy, who takes over from Peter Davidson as Chairman of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust on January 1st*

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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