

Announcement of Chair Appointment

Bruce Laurie has been appointed Chair of Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust for a period of four years from 1 February 2008. Bruce said, “ I am delighted to lead my local hospital, the Great Western, the management team, clinicians, nurses, all the staff of the hospital and our PFI Partner Carillion in continuing to deliver excellent patient centred care and meeting the challenges of the future. I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, Patsy Newton, for her work and I look forward to working with our Primary Care Trusts, local Councils, patient and carer groups to ensure joined up, high quality services for our local population.”

Chief Executive Lyn Hill-Tout said ” We are delighted to have someone of Bruce Laurie’s calibre joining us. This is a very exciting time for our Trust as we move toward Foundation Status, his experience and enthusiasm will be a great asset to us. I am very much looking forward to working with him to further improve services and build on our success.

Patsy Newton, who is standing down after her four year term of office, has been a part of that success and we would all like to thank her for the contribution she has made to this Trust and for her commitment to healthcare in Wiltshire”.

Bruce Laurie is married with one grown up son, lives in Lambourn, West Berkshire, he is a keen gardener and local Church Warden, he and his wife also enjoy folk dancing.

Bruce was Chair of Newbury and Community Primary Care Trust from 2001 until 2006 where he established the new West Berkshire Community Hospital working closely with West Berkshire Council. Just under a year ago he was appointed a Non Executive Director of Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, leading on commercial matters and saw the transition to Foundation Trust. He looks forward to that process for Swindon & Marlborough Trust

He is also a Trustee Director of Connexions Berkshire, working with young people on employment, education, training and support and is a Fellow of the Institute of IT at Thames Valley University where he leads a Masters Course in managing technological innovation.

All non-executive appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees political activity (if any declared) to be made public.

He will be remunerated £20,144 a year, with the appointment having been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Bruce is a member of the Liberal Democrat Party.