

Ridgeway Partnership

Oxfordshire Learning Disability **NHS**
NHS Trust

One Ambition

Ridgeway Partnership Membership Magazine

Issue 2 | January 2009

www.ridgeway.nhs.uk



Inside this issue...

- Working in Partnership with *First Great Western*
- Interview with David Cameron
- My role as a 'Governor'
- Football Tournament
- Public Consultation

WELCOME Julia Clarke



'Welcome' | Julia Clarke, Chair, Ridgeway Partnership | julia.clarke@ridgeway.nhs.uk

Welcome to the second edition of our *Membership Magazine*

I hope you enjoy this second edition of our *Membership Magazine*. It's packed full of information and has been given a new look. I'm sure you'll agree it's looking great.

Interview with David Cameron

I'd like to thank David Cameron MP who is a member of Ridgeway, for taking time in his busy schedule to be interviewed for the magazine. It provides a great insight into his views and understanding of the needs of people with learning disabilities and other complex needs.

Joint initiative working with First Great Western

Another highlight is our joint initiative working with First Great Western as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility programme which we're very excited about. As far as we know we are the only NHS Trust in the country to have established something like this with a national rail provider. First Great Western have been tremendously supportive and you can read more about this exciting venture on [Page 10](#).

Modernising and expanding services

This has been my first full year as Chair. Over the year I've visited services, met staff and service users and gained a real appreciation of our organisation, its values and ethos and the importance of the services we provide and the difference we can make in people's lives.

Working towards NHS Foundation Trust status has put a new emphasis on the Trust modernising and expanding its existing services and growing into new geographical areas. The Trust is also looking at other specialist services where our skills and approach can improve the lives of people with other complex needs.

Membership continues to grow...

So much has been going on this year in terms of building our membership and preparing for becoming an FT, as well as continuing to deliver high quality services and keeping on top of the 'day job'! I'd like to thank all the staff at the Trust for their dedication.

I'd also like to thank the *Membership Engagement Group* for their support in helping us develop our approach to engaging with the public, service users, their families and carers and our staff. Their support has been invaluable.

Learning disability services are often overlooked within the wider NHS system, so it is very important that we are able to continue to give an independent voice and national profile to specialist models of support for people with life-long needs.

Look out for our seminars!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our seminars in February 2009 (more details are on [Page 13](#)) where we'll be telling you more about what will happen next, our election process for identifying our governors and how the *Council of Governors* will operate in practice. See you there!

Thank you for joining us on our journey and being a part of Ridgeway's future

Best wishes

Julia Clarke, Chair

Member-Get-Member

Well done to Annette Broadbent, Support Worker in the Short Term Assessment and Treatment Team (STATT) in Oxford, who has won our *Member-Get-Member* competition by recruiting a staggering 142 members!

Annette achieved the fantastic total (which is still rising by the day!) by hosting parties at her home dedicated to recruiting her family and friends, getting her family to give out leaflets in their businesses, and promoting membership to everyone she met, including her local butcher!

To mark this outstanding achievement and her dedication to the Foundation Trust Application, Annette has received a congratulatory letter from John Morgan, Interim Chief Executive, and been presented with a bottle of champagne from Andy Martin and her colleagues at STATT. She will also receive a £50 voucher for a meal in a restaurant of her choice in the New Year.

Well done Annette!



Membership numbers!

Over the course of this year our membership has grown from 400 to almost **3,500!**

Thank you to everyone who supported us through our *member get member* campaign. Thank you also to those who have come along to membership events in the summer and during our consultation to contribute their ideas.



A sizzling summer of membership recruitment events...

The Membership Team, along with many volunteers were busy over the summer recruiting more members to help us become a Foundation Trust so that by the time we held our AGM in September we'd recruited our **1,000th** member!

Key membership events over the coming year will be:

- Our seminars in February on the election process for our Governors and the role of the Council and our membership. (See page 13 for details).
- Our Annual Summer Garden Party.
- Our first annual governors and members meeting in September.
- Our Annual General Meeting and membership celebration event in October.

Dates of these events will be shared in the next edition of the One Ambition membership magazine along with dates of the proposed Council of Governors meetings for 2009/10.

If you would like to become involved...

If you are interested in being involved in helping us with event organisation for membership related events please contact: **James Harley**, Membership Co-ordinator.

Tel: (01865) 228039 **Email:** james.harley@ridgeway.nhs.uk



Public Consultation

Make sure you don't miss your opportunity! Have your say on line at www.ridgeway.nhs.uk

'Have your Say' | Deborah Lawrenson, Head of Corporate Services, Ridgeway Partnership | deborah.lawrenson@ridgeway.nhs.uk

Public Consultation

The Trust has been running its formal **Public Consultation** since October 20th and concludes on January 31st 2009. Thank you to those of you who have come along to the events we've run and shared your views. It really is very important that we capture the views of as many people as we can. There is still time to formally respond to the consultation. You can either post in the form which is inside the consultation document or you can go online and quickly submit a response via our website at www.ridgeway.nhs.uk

Meetings held right across the counties we support

We have held a wide range of meetings with staff, the public, stakeholder organisations and carers groups across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Swindon & Wiltshire. The views we have heard will be captured in a consultation report which will be submitted as part of our application to become a Foundation Trust. We'll be sharing highlights from the consultation at the seminars in February 2009.

The consultation has a dual purpose. Firstly, to consult with local communities, stakeholders and staff on our plans as an FT. This was not about whether we should or should not be an FT but about whether our strategy and service development plans are the right ones for our Trust going forward. We are also consulting on proposals for our *Council of Governors*.

Responses to date:

- 22 formal responses to the consultation have been received so far. Of these 18 are broadly in favour, 2 are broadly neutral and 2 are broadly opposed;
- 20 out of 22 respondents say they understand benefits of Ridgeway Partnership becoming a Foundation Trust;
- 19 out of 22 respondents say they support the Trust's plans for the future; and



- 16 out of 22 respondents say they agree with the Trust's plans for 5 public constituencies.

The main themes emerging from people's responses to the question "what are the top three things you would like us to achieve as FT" are:

- Improve the lives of people with a learning disability;
- Improve service quality;
- Support more people to live in the community;
- Expand medium secure services; and,
- Expand Step Down services.



Raising our membership numbers!

Secondly, our aim was to raise our membership figures from 1,174, which was our total at the start of consultation, to 3,000 by the end of the consultation period which we've exceeded!

Submission of our Business Plan to the Strategic Health Authority

When the consultation is over the Trust will be submitting a final draft of its 5-year Integrated Business Plan and Long Term Financial Model to the South Central Strategic Health Authority (SCSHA). The Trust's underlying financial position will be assessed through a historical due diligence.

Our application will then be considered by the Department of Health Applications Committee, who will

recommend to the Secretary of State whether we should proceed for assessment and authorisation.

It is envisaged that the Trust will apply to Monitor for authorisation and will begin the process of electing governors in the early summer of 2009. We hope to be authorised as a Foundation Trust by the end of the year.

Although the consultation is drawing to a close we would be delighted to come along to speak to special interest groups or forums to talk about our plans. If you know of any such meetings let the membership office know.

Please find below information from the Consultation Booklet. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Membership Office on: **(01865) 228039**.



The benefits of us becoming an NHS Foundation Trust

Becoming an NHS Foundation Trust, gives us more choice, for example:

1

NHS Foundation Trusts are membership organisations

- This means that we can invite those who know best -- the people who use our services, families, staff, local people, YOU! -- to become Members.
- Members will help us to shape our services and make sure that we keep our promises to the people we support.



2

NHS Foundation Trusts have a *Council of Governors* that is elected by its members

- This means that Members can vote for people to represent them on a Council that works with the **Board of Directors**.

Our Board of Directors will have a Chairman plus 5 non-executive directors and 5 executive directors. The executive directors are:

Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Medical Director, Director of Nursing and Director of Operations.

- Most importantly, it means that people with a learning disability can become **Governors**.



3

NHS Foundation Trusts have more independence to make their own decisions

- This means that we can make decisions for ourselves about how to earn, spend and use our money.
- It also means we can make the right plans for our local areas. Members will be able to help shape our services for the future.



Our future plans

Our Vision

"Our Vision is to be the best at supporting people with learning disabilities, complex needs and long term health conditions in the South of England."

We have **3 Big Strategic Aims** for the next five years.

Our Strategic Aims (By 2013)

1

Strategic Aim 1:

We want to make sure that we continue to offer the best modern services to the people we support at the moment and to take on new services in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Swindon and Wiltshire.



2

Strategic Aim 2:

We want to offer our specialist services to more people in the counties we support at the moment and in other counties that we do not currently support.

3

Strategic Aim 3:

We want to offer our services to people who have complex health needs but do not have a learning disability. We believe that our specialist services would benefit these people too.

- **For example:** Supporting people who have been in accidents and have what is called an **Acquired Brain Injury**.

"Ridgeway Partnership exists to create healthier, fulfilling lives for people with complex disabilities through the design and delivery of tailor-made services"

Our Mission

Our service plans for the next 5 years



There are a number of changes that we would like to make to our services

The information below tells you about our plans to improve our services.

These plans will help us to achieve our **3 big 'Strategic Aims'** that we talked about on **the previous page**.

We have been working with our partners to develop plans for the next **5 years** that will prepare us for changes in our health and social care services and help us to improve.

Our plans include some of the following:

- 1** We plan to offer more people with a learning disability support with the **social care** part of their lives.

This includes:

- Supporting more people to live in **their own homes as tenants**
- Supporting more people with their **free time** and **leisure activities**
- Supporting more people to **volunteer** and **work** in Oxfordshire and the surrounding counties



- 2** We plan to make our **medium secure** adult learning disability services bigger by building a unit that can support up to 28 people at any one time.

- 3** We plan to make our **Step Down** service in Oxfordshire bigger so that we can support more people to move back into the community after inpatient services.

- 4** We plan to **modernise** and make our specialist inpatient services in Buckinghamshire better for the people who use them.

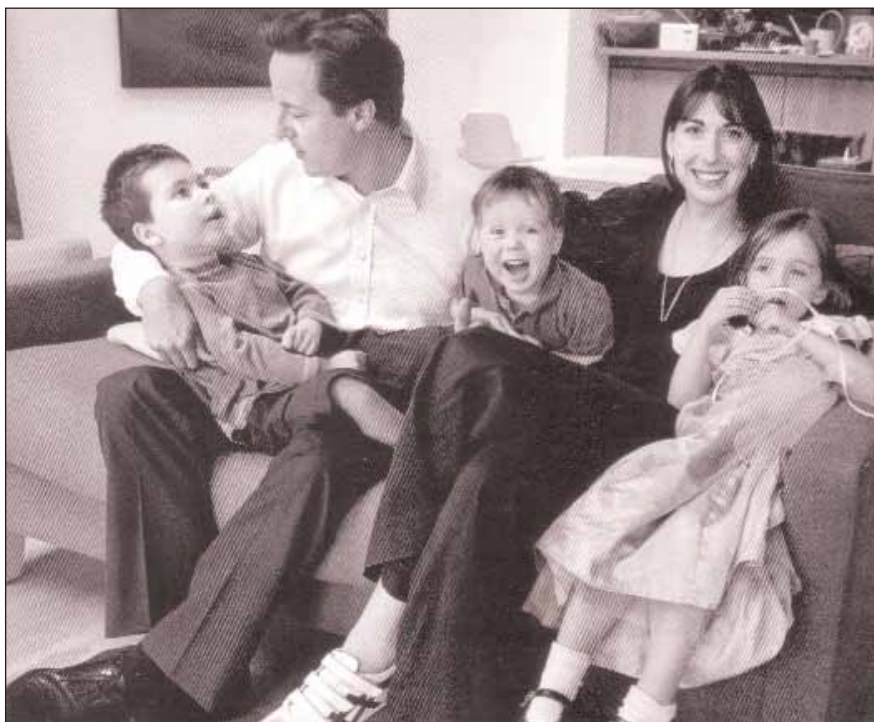
- 5** We plan to **modernise** and make our specialist inpatient services in Swindon and Wiltshire better for the people who use them.

Meet David Cameron...



'Meet David' | Deborah Lawrenson, Head of Corporate Services, Ridgeway Partnership | deborah.lawrenson@ridgeway.nhs.uk

David Cameron, Leader of the Opposition, MP for Witney, and Ridgeway Partnership member, spoke with 'One Ambition' about his views on improving services for people with learning disabilities, Corporate Social Responsibility and pressures on public services.



Deborah: We're very pleased you agreed to become a member of Ridgeway Partnership in the summer. Can you tell us a bit more about why you chose to become involved and how you think we can encourage others to join us?

David: Improving services for people with learning disabilities, and for their carers and families, has been a long-standing interest of mine. I've seen from my constituency the great work you are already doing, and the difference you can make to people's lives. And I want to do my bit to help improve that further in the future.

In particular I think giving health services more independence and status in the community is a good thing and I want to support it.



What do you feel about the Corporate Social Responsibility agenda and how it can influence shared national or local ownership or responsibility for 'making things better'?

Good Corporate Social Responsibility needs to be about real actions in the real world -- not bureaucratic box ticking. Working to improve access to public transport for people with learning and physical disabilities -- including in the

way timetables and information is presented -- is a classic example of how it can make a practical difference. It's also a good example of how CSR, when it works properly, can benefit everybody -- including the businesses themselves, who attract more customers.

Corporate responsibility was very much part of my values when I worked in business. Now it's a central part of my political values. I believe strongly that we've all got a shared responsibility for our shared future -- and that includes businesses, as well as individuals, charities, governments and others. I'm really pleased to see it being put into practice to help people in this important area. *(Please see page 10, Working in Partnership with First Great Western).*



How significantly do you view the Human Rights Act as a mechanism for supporting vulnerable people and how would you like to see it applied?

It's really important that we support vulnerable people, but I'm not convinced that the Human Rights Act is the right way to put that principle into practice. I think it's become fairly clear to most people that the Act has not really worked properly -- to the extent that it's ended up being counter-productive in a lot of ways. I think what's required instead is a modern British Bill of Rights that would set out people's rights with greater clarity and precision, and that's what my Party is working on at the moment.



We believe the Trust's approach to caring for adults with learning disabilities is a fantastic model for supporting other groups with similar needs, for example older people with dementia and people who have suffered brain injuries.

What plans or policies do the Conservatives have to improve care in the community for such groups?

A big part of this is about moving to the kind of 'person-centred approach' that the Ridgeway Partnership is committed to -- putting the needs and wishes of the users of the service first. Things like individual budgets, and joint budgets for patients with health and social care, both of which the Government is beginning to deliver, are ways in which that goal can be met.

In terms of people with dementia in particular, the Government's strategy on services for people with dementia may well have been launched by the time this magazine is published -- it was promised for October, but got delayed. The Government promised it would give this priority within the NHS and, as this is an issue which often gets neglected by the media and society at large, it's important that it keeps this promise.



With increasing pressures on public finance and pressures on commissioners to make difficult decisions about where to direct funding, how can we ensure that quality of services are not adversely affected?

I've made it clear that, whatever the pressures on public spending, we are still committed to increases in health spending every year -- because we want the NHS to have the funding it needs.

But you're right in saying it's a difficult time for public services, and we need to make sure that all the money at our disposal is spent wisely and according to the needs and wishes of patients. In particular that means putting health professionals in the lead, scrapping top-down targets, stopping doctors answering to Whitehall, and getting them answering to patients. At the moment far too much money is swallowed up in bureaucracy, often at the insistence of central government, and this has got to stop if the quality of services isn't going to be adversely affected.



What is top of your Christmas wish list this year and if you could transport yourself to this time next year what do you think or hope you'll be wishing for?

I remember a story about a politician being asked by a newspaper what he wanted for Christmas, and replying he was hoping for some crystallised fruits -- only to find out later that everyone else had asked for things like world peace. So I had better be careful here!

There are a lot of changes required in Britain, but I think it's difficult hoping for change without hoping for the means to bring that change about. So I hope Gordon Brown will call an election sooner rather than later. Whether that will have happened by this time next year, I don't know -- but I certainly want it to.

But in terms of a present... I am hoping for the second series of Gavin & Stacey on DVD. I've missed it on the TV!

Ridgeway would like to thank David for taking the time to be interviewed.

Working in partnership with...

First  Great Western

'Working in Partnership...' | Andrew Griffiths, Head of Environment & Sustainability, **First Great Western**

The Trust is working with First Great Western as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility Programme.

Raising awareness

We hope to raise awareness of learning and physical disabilities amongst the communities we and First Great Western serve; encouraging involvement and engendering a greater feeling of shared responsibility for supporting people with learning disabilities to live fulfilling lives. First Great Western have committed time and resource to help us with this.

First Great Western's Head of Sustainable Development Andrew Griffiths provided this update for our members....

Update for Ridgeway's Members

First Great Western operate the intercity train service from London Paddington to the Cotswolds, South Wales and the West Country, as well as local services across much of Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. Over 70 million journeys are made on our trains every year. Our 10-year franchise began in 2006 and we have already invested over £200m in trains, stations, performance and customer service.

Our flagship fleet of 53 High Speed Trains has just been refurbished, with half the overall investment going into the complete internal revamp of the carriages and provision of cleaner, greener engines -- which have cut carbon and other emissions by up to two thirds, and are much more fuel efficient. We are part of First Group, the

largest public operator in the UK, and which prides itself on its record on social responsibility.

Rail links play an important role for the communities we serve...

We recognise that rail links play an important role for the communities we serve, and especially for those people without access to private transport. Not only do we aspire to be 'good neighbours', we also wish to play an active role in communities and work for the greater good of the region. As such we are delighted to work with the Ridgeway Partnership, and see great mutual benefit, both in terms of bringing the work of Ridgeway to the attention of our passengers, and learning from the Trust about how best to break down some of the barriers to making use of the rail network that disadvantaged groups in particular face. This is an exciting and innovative joint venture and we look forward to seeing it develop and grow.

For further information

If you would like further information about the work First Great Western and the Trust are carrying out, please contact Deborah Lawrenson on:

Tel: (01865) 228104

Email: Deborah.lawrenson@ridgeway.nhs.uk

Ridgeway Partnership and First Great Western are holding a 'Trust Awareness Day' on Monday 26th January 2009 at Swindon Station. Why not come along and help us to raise awareness of the Trust, the services we provide and the people we support.



Ridgeway bends it like Beckham...

“The Ridgeway Team were praised for their exemplary commitment”

‘Ridgeway bends...’ | Neil Morris, *Temporary Membership Administrator, Ridgeway Partnership* | neil.morris@ridgeway.nhs.uk

On Friday 10 October 2008 Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust hosted its second annual 5-a-side football tournament.

It was a great day for all involved with the weather matching up to the standard of football on display. People who use our services and staff alike took part in the tournament and all the athletes were rewarded with a well earned hog roast for lunch. A surprise appearance from ex-England and Arsenal defender Martin Keown topped off the day as he handed out prizes for the winners and signed autographs.

The team from Ridgeway Partnership had a number of success stories that day. Our top scorer, Rodney Dawson, found the back of the net 3 times and goalkeeper, Jenna, performed some excellent saves to keep Ridgeway in the hunt and earning herself the tournament award for most enthusiastic player in the process.

The day culminated with all the players receiving a medal, presented by Martin Keown and some of the rising stars from Oxford United Football Club. The Ridgeway players also received a special mention at the award ceremony for their commitment and conduct throughout the tournament, encapsulating the true spirit of the day.

Final thanks should also go to the paramedics who enthusiastically supported the Ridgeway team throughout the day.



My role as a Governor Member...

'My Role as a Governor...' | James Harley, Membership Co-ordinator, Ridgeway Partnership | james.harley@ridgeway.nhs.uk

'One Ambition' spoke to Daphne Sharpe, a Governor at South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust -- she tells us here about what her role has entailed so far...

I have been a Governor Member with South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for just over one year. It is a position that I value immensely and I will always try to keep my focus on patients and their carers. My determination to try to improve situations and to stand up for things I am passionate about is, I hope, reflected in the way I carry out my duties as a Governor Member.

Many people feel they have valid reasons to complain about certain issues. They write a letter of complaint, receive a suitable response and then carry on with their lives. For me personally my turning point came when my brother, who has Alzheimer's disease, was admitted to hospital and remained there for nine months.

During this time there were many things I witnessed, some good, some not so good. I realised then that unless I had a voice within the organisation no impact could be made, and any issues raised would be paid the normal 'lip-service' then filed away in a drawer once a suitable response had been sent.

I was so moved by my brother's illness and the lack of space for him to walk about without bumping into other patients, that I made it my goal to build a much needed garden outside the ward. Within one year I raised over £60,000 and built a garden which is now constantly used by patients. Since then I have raised more funds for a sensory room which is due to open shortly and which I know will also be of benefit to the patients.



Daphne Sharpe,
Governor at South Shropshire Healthcare

St George's Hospital in Stafford had at the time achieved Foundation Status and was asking for people to complete personal profiles and enter into an election process, where members of the public would vote for who they considered most appropriate for the role. With a great deal of reservation, I submitted my profile and was delighted when I was told the amount of votes I had received entitled me to a three year tenure of office.

I feel the people who voted for me deserve commitment

The role as a Governor Member is something I consider to have huge responsibility; I feel the people who voted me into this prestigious position deserve commitment from me and my heart is firmly with the patients and their

Seminars 2009

Dates and locations

We have a series of **member/potential governor seminars** in February 2009 at which you will hear more about the next steps, how our elections will run and more detail about how the *Council of Governors* will operate.

To book your space at one of these seminars please contact the membership office at:

membership@ridgeway.nhs.uk

Date	Time	Location
9th February 2009	5.30 - 7.30	Oxford Barcello Hotel, Oxford
10th February 2009	5.30 - 7.30	The Ivy House Hotel, Marlborough
24th February 2009	5.30 - 7.30	The Holiday Inn, Swindon
27th February 2009	5.30 - 7.30	Sivatech Ltd, Aylesbury

welfare. As a Governor Member, I ensure that the voices of the people are heard and that any questions or concerns raised are dealt with at an appropriate level.

Being a Foundation Trust enables the organisation to deliver a more locally managed service -- one that is more responsive to the needs of the local community and more fully involves the local community. In time the Trust will then become much more patient and community-led.

The benefits from Foundation Trust Status...

To link with my constituents I regularly make presentations to various local meetings, advising them of the services offered by the Trust and try to explain what benefits are derived from foundation status:

- Freedom to make decisions locally
- Greater and tangible involvement of local people
- More accountability to local people for decisions made on healthcare
- Services that are responsive to the needs of local people

The meetings I attend to speak my constituents are varied and include:

- Women's Institute meetings
- Round Table Meetings
- Phoenix Group Meetings (over fifties)
- Local Councillors Meetings
- Ladies Rotary Meetings
- Parish Council Meetings
- Alzheimer Cafes around South Staffordshire

Fighting for the things I feel passionate about

The past year has been a huge learning curve for me personally, and the title Governor Member has opened many doors of opportunity. I am prepared to fight for things I feel passionate about, which in turn means I have to stand up and be counted and stay true to the courage of my convictions.

My particular interest is in Alzheimer's, dementia and older people services. Because of recent press and media interest, the profile of older people is slowly being raised and I hope issues arising from this publicity will now be taken seriously and addressed accordingly.

At a recent meeting I attended, many Governor Members appeared to be very involved with the strategy and performance of the Trust they represented, and my concern was that throughout the day little mention was made of patients. For me, one of the major aspects of my role as Governor Member, is the patient; because to be quite blunt, without the patients there would be no Foundation Trusts.

Keep it real!

The expression 'keep it real' is one that springs to mind. As Governor Members we are told should be 'critical friends' who have a desire to challenge, and yet support - - by that what exactly do we mean -- critical friends to the Board of Directors, or to the voiceless patients that we care for? This is a question that I have yet to find the answer to, but one that I will pursue.

There is still a lot to learn as a Governor Member, and I have two years in which to widen my horizons and make a

One Ambition

significant difference. The people who placed a cross against my name on the ballot slips will then say 'Yes -- this Governor kept her word and did ensure the voice of the community was heard'.

I am honoured to have been appointed a Governor Member and feel very privileged to be in this position as the eyes and ears of the organisation. Staff and patients continue to speak to me, air their concerns and feel confident that I will take their views forward to be heard at a higher level.

The human voice is incredibly powerful and it is only by listening and taking on board constructive comments that the Trust will continue to be successful.

I look forward to the next years as a Governor Member with

South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and will definitely do my best to always 'go the extra mile' when representing constituents and the organisation.

Daphne Sharp, Governor Member, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

If you are interested in becoming a **Governor** of Ridgeway Partnership please express your interest with the Membership Office. Or if you would like to talk about the role in more detail contact **Deborah Lawrenson**

Email: deborah.lawrenson@ridgeway.nhs.uk
Tel: (01865) 228104

A day in the life of the *Head of Psychology Services* Judith Samuel...

'A day in the life...' | Judith Samuel, Head of Psychology services, Ridgeway Partnership | judith.samuel@ridgeway.nhs.uk

Judith Samuel, Head of Psychology services shares her typical day...

Psychology Services is a thriving department with considerable knowledge and expertise and a national reputation committed to improving the psychological well-being of people with learning disabilities, their families, carers and staff. We work with adults and children in the community, inpatient and forensic services.

We have eight consultants, two principals, nine senior clinical or counselling psychologists, three newly qualified psychologists, eight assistants and five administrators. We are joined by trainees on placement for six months to a year from the Oxford Doctoral Training Course in Clinical Psychology. Currently we have six trainees in post. We also provide opportunities for postgraduate



Judith Samuel
Head of Psychology Services

psychologists to gain work experience as Honorary Assistant Psychologists.

I am based in the Psychology Department at Abell House, Slade site, Oxford. My working day usually starts before 9am and finishes a little after 5pm with some flexibility and depending where in Oxon, Bucks, Swindon or Kennet I find myself! I work five days per week. It is really hard to describe a typical day -- I don't think one exists... a week is probably easier. My diary is filled with regular commitments of both a clinical and managerial nature. I really appreciate the mixed challenge this presents. Having become Head of Psychology Services at the beginning of 2008 I am especially enjoying nurturing and empowering staff and try to make myself available to them both formally and informally.

In terms of clinical work I am the psychologist for all the inpatient services on the Slade site, Oxford. I attend weekly clinical team meetings, both for the **Short Term Assessment and Treatment Unit** (the acute admission service) and for **John Sharich House** (the rehabilitation unit), and fortnightly clinical team meetings for Step Down. I try to attend staff handovers at shift changes regularly too. I see clients for assessment or individual psychological therapy as required.

I am also the Consultant psychologist for Penhurst School Action for Children, Chipping Norton. I supervise an Assistant psychologist who works there two days per week.

Giving staff supervision figures regularly in my diary; this can be either clinical or managerial depending on the grade of staff. Everyday I am likely to have some sort of personnel, financial or administrative matter to attend to interspersed with clinical and other activity.

Chairing department meetings is a regular occurrence. I am really keen that psychologists across the Trust share their talents both within the department and outside. Psychologists at Ridgeway are good at training others in our areas of particular expertise and do this locally, nationally and recently even at an international conference. I teach regularly on the Oxford Training course and am involved in the annual selection of trainees.

As a senior manager in the Trust I am involved in a variety of operational and strategic meetings. I am particular interested in maintaining a focus on innovative research, clinical audit and service evaluation. Clinical Psychologists are highly qualified researchers and are well placed to contribute to this important work. I also chair the Intensive Interaction Strategy Group that oversees Intensive Interaction training, service development audit and research for the Trust and partners.

For further information

If you would like further information about the services that we provide, why not visit our website at: www.ridgeway.nhs.uk Alternatively, we can send you some information *About Us* and the services we provide. Please contact the Publications Department on **(01865) 228031**.

What is a Learning Disability?

Around 1.5 million people in the UK have a learning disability. It is not an illness but a lifelong condition that some people are born with, such as Down's Syndrome, Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

It is well known that the physical and mental health outcomes for people with a learning disability are substantially worse than for the general population, and that caring for these vulnerable people can place considerable physical and psychological stress on families and other carers.

Learning disabilities...

If you would like to know more about learning disabilities there are a whole range of organisations that provide information and support, here are a few key national organisations to get you started:

Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

www.learningdisabilities.org.uk

Mencap

www.mencap.org.uk

British Institute Of Learning Disabilities

www.bild.org.uk

People First

www.peoplefirstltd.com

The Trust employs over 1,200 skilled staff who represent a wide range of general and specialist professions including support workers, nursing, psychology, psychiatry, social care, service management and allied health therapies.

If you are interested in working for us, why not look at our website at www.ridgeway.nhs.uk or contact our **Recruitment Team** for further information on: **(01865) 228197**.

Trust Board meetings...

'Trust Board...' | Deborah Lawrenson, Head of Corporate Services, Ridgeway Partnership | deborah.lawrenson@ridgeway.nhs.uk

Trust Board meetings are held in public and you are welcome to come along. Public board papers are available from our website www.ridgeway.nhs.uk and are shared a couple of days before each meeting takes place.

2009 Trust Board meeting dates

Date	Location
January 26th 2009	18, Bourton House, Witney, Training Rm 2
February 26th 2009	18, Bourton House, Witney, Training Rm 2
March 26th 2009	18, Bourton House, Witney, Training Rm 2
April 30th 2009	Trust Headquarters, Slade House, Oxford
May 28th 2009	Trust Headquarters, Slade House, Oxford
June 25th 2009	Trust Headquarters, Slade House, Oxford
July 30th 2009	Trust Headquarters, Slade House, Oxford
September 24th 2009	Trust Headquarters, Slade House, Oxford
October 29th 2009	Trust Headquarters, Slade House, Oxford
November 26th 2009	Trust Headquarters, Slade House, Oxford

For further information

If you have any questions about Trust Board meetings please contact:

Deborah Lawrenson, Company Secretary

Tel: (01865) 228104

Email: Deborah.lawrenson@ridgeway.nhs.uk

Trust Board Papers are available from our website at: www.ridgeway.nhs.uk/aboutus/trustboard

Notice Board...

Membership Benefits | Don't miss out!

Being a member is free and you can choose how much you want to be involved. It's a great way to have your say on how we support people with learning disabilities currently and on our plans for the future.

Members can access a wide range of benefits via NHS Discounts go to www.nhsdiscounts.com to find out more

Accessible health info...

A new website has been set up to hold health information in an accessible format. A company called *Generate* were given the money from the Department of Health to develop an accessible website where people could find health information that is easy to read. Pass the web address - www.easyhealth.org.uk - onto anyone you know who may benefit from it

Can you DRAW!

Calling budding cartoonists or illustrators
Would you be interested in contributing cartoons and illustrations for the magazine? Please contact the Membership Office if you are able to help.

'One Ambition' is produced by Ridgeway Partnership (Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust). If you would like any further information, please contact the Membership Office on the details below.

Ridgeway Partnership Membership Office, Slade House, Horspath Driftway, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7JH

Tel: (01865) 228039 **Email:** membership@ridgeway.nhs.uk

*If you require this magazine in a different language, large print, braille or speaking version you can contact the Trust's Publications Department on (01865) 228031.

Submit an article!

We want to hear from you, our members, about ideas for articles for future editions of the magazine. What would you like to hear about? Would you like to contribute to the magazine? The next issue is due to come out in the spring. If you have a story you would like to be included or there are issues you would like us to cover please contact:

James Harley by 31st March 2009

Tel: (01865) 228039

Email: james.harley@ridgeway.nhs.uk