



The Friends of the Princess Royal University Hospital (Farnborough, Kent)

Charity Commission Registered No 231071

January 2025

Dear Member of The Friends of The Princess Royal University Hospital

I write to you to update you on the current situation of The Friends. Over the last 18 months, several long serving trustees have retired which has seriously depleted our numbers. Later this year, a further two trustees will step down after many years of service, leaving us with only six. The post of secretary is currently unfilled and has been for some months, and at the AGM at the beginning of June this year, we will not have a treasurer. Despite many efforts to engage with friends, other contacts and voluntary organisations, we have been unable to attract interest from people that would enable us to fill those vacancies and therefore continue to fulfil our charitable objectives.

We are currently considering whether The Friends is no longer a viable charitable organisation run by volunteers, especially now that The Kings Charity, run by paid employees raises hundreds of thousand pounds each year. The administrative obligations we have to meet are onerous. In addition to managing our finances to Charity Commission standards we must have numerous policies in place in order to comply with the law e.g. governance, safeguarding, social media, equal opportunities, bullying, the list goes on! This takes much time and energy alongside planning for fund raising events. Without a full complement of officers to lead the committee of trustees, the range of obligations we have to meet is not achievable. We have also in the past relied heavily on many helpers who have been generous in giving their time to help with events. Since COVID, many of these helpers have chosen not to continue with this support and we have been left desperately short of "manpower" at these times.

All of this has led the Committee to take the decision to consider the future viability of The Friends of the PRUH. We have not arrived at the point of making a final decision yet, but as things currently stand, we are taking advice as to how a registered charity should formally and legally close.

Given that you have freely chosen to be a paid-up member of this group, on behalf of The Friends, I thought that you should be aware of our thinking and current actions.

If you have any comments, observations or advice, or are able to offer support in the management of the charity, please feel free to contact us either in writing to 'The Friends of the PRUH' at our registered address below or by email to secretary@friendsofpruh.org.uk.

Peter Harris
Chairman
The Friends of the PRUH