

From: Hollebbon Andy
To: [Communications Dept](#)
Subject: New Chair for Isle of Wight NHS Trust announced
Date: 10 October 2017 14:36:58

Press Release

10th October 2017

New Chair for Isle of Wight NHS Trust announced

NHS Improvement (NHSI) has confirmed the appointment of Vaughan Thomas (pictured right) as the new Chair of Isle of Wight NHS Trust. The appointment is with immediate effect and is for two years. Isle of Wight NHS Trust is the Island's principal provider of secondary healthcare services including ambulance, community, hospital and mental health and learning disability services. The Trust serves a population of 140,000 with 2.5m visitors per annum on an offshore Island which is only accessible by sea and air. Mr Thomas chaired the Trust Board meeting on Wednesday 4th October.

Vaughan has been a frequent visitor to the Island since 1986 and more recently has bought a home here. Vaughan is a Chartered Accountant with experience as a professional advisor, chief executive, and entrepreneur. He has various roles as director, non-executive director and trustee. Vaughan brings a range of valuable skills and experience to the role of Chairman at Isle of Wight NHS Trust. He was previously a Partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers and European Chief Executive at CB Richard Ellis. Vaughan has been a Non-Executive Director with the Trust since September 2016.

Speaking about his appointment Mr Thomas said: "It is a real privilege to serve the Isle of Wight NHS Trust. I look forward to working with Board colleagues and Trust staff in this new role. Together we face an exciting and demanding challenge responding to the Care Quality Commission's inadequate rating which resulted in the Trust being placed in special measures. Our aim is to get to a good rating as soon as we can."

Welcoming Vaughan's appointment Maggie Oldham, Interim Chief Executive Officer at Isle of Wight NHS Trust, said: "Vaughan has extensive leadership experience which will help the Trust meet the many challenges it faces. As chair of the Trust's Integrated Improvement Framework (IIF) board Vaughan is already very involved in our improvement programme and familiar with the work we need to do to ensure that services are sustainable for the future and deliver the best possible service for Islanders within the resources we have available."

Mr Thomas takes over from Eve Richardson OBE (pictured right with Vaughan) who announced her intention to stand down to become the chair of the Island's independent stakeholder reference group earlier this year.

The appointment has been made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice including open advertising of the position. Mr Thomas' appointment runs for two years from 2nd October 2017 to 1st October 2019.

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. Mr Thomas has declared no political activity.

The requirements for Non-Executive Directors and remuneration can be found on the NHS Improvement website at <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/non-executive-appointments/>.

Notes for Editors

1. Services on the Island were first brought together in October 2006 under the umbrella of the Isle of Wight NHS PCT. 2012/13 was the first year of operation for the new Isle of Wight NHS Trust. The Trust is an integrated service provider of acute hospital, mental health, learning disability, ambulance and community services (detailed below). In 2016-17 revenue was £171m, for services delivered by a workforce of almost 2,700 (full time equivalent). We serve an offshore population of 140,000.
2. For further information contact Isle of Wight NHS Trust Communications Team on 01983-822099 ext. 6175 / media@iow.nhs.uk. Further information about health services can be found at www.iow.nhs.uk or www.nhs.uk.

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