|  |
| --- |
| newlogo-big |

Press Release

Embargoed until Friday 14th September 2012

New chairman appointed to Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

A new chairman has been appointed to Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Stepping Hill Hospital as well as community health services across Stockport, Tameside & Glossop.

Gillian Easson, a solicitor for over 30 years, trained and started her career in Stockport and went on to become one of the first female prosecuting solicitors in the North West. She was born in Stepping Hill Hospital, as were her two children, and attended Hazel Grove County Primary. Prestbury-based Gillian joined Stockport NHS Foundation Trust as a non-executive director in 2007 and has been Deputy Chairman of the Trust for the last six years.

Gillian was previously a non-executive director of The Christie cancer centre and is currently the first female Pro-Chancellor of The University of Manchester and chairman of the Management Board of the Manchester University Press. She regularly lectures, contributes to publications and has undertaken reviews on behalf of Monitor, the national Foundation Trust regulator.

In her new role Gillian will oversee a £275 million annual budget and the treatment and care of 750,000 patients a year from across Stockport, Tameside, Glossop and parts of the High Peak. She will preside over ambitious plans to transform healthcare services for local people through providing care closer to home. The organisation has over 5,700 staff and is the second largest employer in Stockport.

The appointment was made by the Trust’s Council of Governors which represents people across the community. Gillian Easson said;

 “I feel proud and privileged to take this appointment at such an exciting and challenging time. My experience, understanding and strong relationships with the local communities and colleagues at the Trust will hopefully help me hit the ground running.

“I am well aware that the NHS faces financial challenges while striving to improve the high quality care we provide to patients. However, with the skilled and committed staff in this organisation I am confident we will be very well equippedto respond to those challenges and continue improving our high quality services”.

Dr Robina Shah, who has served the Trust for the last 12 years will be handing over to Gillian at the end of October.

**ENDS**

For further information on the above please contact:

Alicia Custis

Head of Communications

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

0161 419 4576

07500 092671

alicia.custis@stockport.nhs.uk