

NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Executive of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to take up role of Chief Executive of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

Dr Gillian Fairfield, chief executive of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, is to take up the role of Chief Executive of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Dr Fairfield, who began work at the Trust in April 2014, will be succeeded by the Trust's Director of Finance, Damien Finn, on an interim basis.

Trust Chairman, John Jesky said: "Gillian's contribution to the Trust has been tremendous and she will be missed both professionally and personally. Under her stewardship, the Trust has made many improvements and seen innovations that will continue to resonate long after her departure. I know that Gillian will bring these extraordinary talents and leadership skills to bear for the benefit of the people and communities of Brighton and Sussex.

Mr Jesky's term in office as Chair of the Trust comes to an end at the end of February. Mr Jesky has held this appointment since 2006. The vice chair, Mrs Christine Mayer, who has been a member of the Trust Board since 2011, will step into the role.

Mr Jesky added: "From the perspective of my own role, I am sad to be leaving the Trust after ten years leading the Board. It has been a privilege to be the Trust's chair for the last ten years, to work with so many skilled, professional and dedicated staff and volunteers. I have the opportunity to serve alongside many highly committed colleagues over the years. I look forward to continuing to follow the Trust's development in the future."

Helen Dabbs, portfolio director at the NHS Trust Development Authority in the North, said: "Dr Gillian Fairfield came to Pennine Acute Trust at a time of change for the NHS. Her guardianship of the Trust over the last two years has been exemplary. I'm sure she will take that same professionalism, commitment and dedication with her to her next role.

"I also want to pay tribute to John Jesky's long service to the Trust and to the NHS. I want to thank him for his work especially with regard to managing the changes that have taken place in services at the Trust's hospitals and his devotion to patients and staff over the years."

The NHS TDA recommended Dr Fairfield for the important leadership role at Brighton and is most grateful that she has accepted, following the agreement of the Chairs of the Trusts. The role at Brighton will be in the form of a secondment.

The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust employs around 9,000 staff and serves a population of 820,000. The Trust runs North Manchester General Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, The Royal Oldham Hospital, Rochdale Infirmary, and a range of integrated health and social care and community services.