

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

AFFILIATION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES WITH HMS DAUNTLESS

1. INTRODUCTION

Ward 16 of the Royal Victoria Infirmary has historically had an affiliation with HMS Newcastle. This ship is to be replaced by HMS Dauntless and the Trust is seeking to continue and enhance the affiliation with the new ship.

On 3rd July 2008, at the invitation of Ms Harvey, Public Governor and the Children's Services Directorate, Commander Giulian Hill RN, Senior Naval Officer overseeing the construction of HMS Dauntless, attended the RVI and gave a presentation about the ship. The current programme suggests the ship may visit the Tyne in January or February of 2010.

2. BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION

HMS Newcastle was affiliated to one ward and the affiliation was reflected in visits to the ship by patients and staff, the sending of memorabilia to the ward by the crew and visits by the crew to the ward. It is proposed that HMS Dauntless will be affiliated to the totality of Children's Services, most likely at Senior Ratings level amongst the crew. Indeed, some of the crew have already visited the Trust (in February 2008).

It is anticipated that there will be scope for visits to the ship approximately every five months once on active duty, with up to six people invited on each visit. During the construction period over the next 18 months or so, 12 to 18 staff could visit the shipyard.

It has been proposed that a crew visit to the Great North Children's Hospital could take place in October 2008. A number of crew are participating in the Great North Run this year (in support of the Percy Hedley School) and are likely to participate next year and could do so in support of Children's Services.

Commander Hill has offered a version of the 3-D walk-through package about the ship to the Trust and this might be integrated with the interactive software being developed to provide entertainment for children. There will also be a capability for live tracking of the ship's location on deployment and for email or chat-room communications, subject to appropriate safeguards. An interactive website is also proposed, for photos and messages.

3. RECOMMENDATION

To support the affiliation of Children's Services with HMS Dauntless.