

ROGER BROWNING

Pro-Chancellor,

Roger Browning has been Chief Executive of Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust since 1992. The Trust has won numerous awards for high-quality healthcare provision under his leadership. He has fostered close academic and professional collaborations with BU, culminating in the achievement of University Trust status in 2010.

Roger grew up locally, in West Howe. His mother, a single parent, died when he was 14, and his older brother Frank left the Royal Navy to support him; but after taking A-levels Roger felt an obligation to earn rather than go to university. His first ambition was to be a professional footballer but his trials with Fulham and Bournemouth were unsuccessful (though he is still a staunch supporter of his local team). However, a fish-and-chip supper was the turning point: on the newspaper wrapping he saw an advert for an NHS management training scheme. It called for graduates but he applied anyway, and succeeded.

This training scheme was thorough and comprehensive; Roger worked in operating theatres and with the rubbish porters, and much else in between. His early management posts were in acute general hospitals in London and on the south coast, until he returned to his home area as Deputy Hospital Secretary at Poole.

Then followed a series of increasingly senior executive appointments in this area. Each of the many NHS reorganisations gave him greater responsibilities for development of strategies and joint planning with local authorities. Roger seized every opportunity as a chance to progress and improve patient care and the quality of people's lives, which always was - and still is - his passion and driving ambition. This second phase of his career led to his appointment, in 1992, as Chief Executive of Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust, which provides the full range of mental health, learning disability and community health services for the people of Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset. It has been consistently one of the highest performing Trusts in the country, in both clinical and financial terms, and its record of success under Roger's leadership culminated in the achievement of Foundation Trust status in 2007.

As Chief Executive Roger has led the transformation of many community and mental health services to make them more accessible and responsive to patient needs. So, for example, he introduced self-referral and direct referral in services such as audiology, talking therapies and family therapy, reducing waiting times, localising services and saving money. For many years he has championed vulnerable people, including adults with Asperger's Syndrome, and made provisions for their needs. His Woodlands and Broadwaters schemes work jointly with local authorities to provide better support in the community for recovering stroke patients. And two years ago Roger formed a Social Enterprise with local GPs and two charities to run a Primary Care Centre in Boscombe.

Roger's national reputation has been enhanced by setting up the Patients' Advocacy Service at Broadmoor Hospital, and helping to launch the South West Mental Health Social Inclusion / Equalities Programme Network. He has produced a number of publications including articles on care pathways, community health services and learning disability, and has spoken at many national conferences. In his pursuit of quality care he has even turned his favourite recreation to good account: he funded the Patients' Experience Award by running marathons.

A key aspect of Roger's excellence as Chief Executive is his care for the Trust's staff. He genuinely supports them all, attending and addressing each Induction event, and treating care assistants and consultants with equal respect. No wonder, then, that the Trust's Investors in People Award has recently been renewed.

Roger's appointment as Chief Executive coincided with the move of NHS-funded professional training into higher education, and since then the relationship between BU and the Trust has flourished and grown. He has supported key course developments in areas such as psychosocial interventions and addictions. The entire Trust has been accredited by our School of Health and Social Care's Practice Development Unit, a unique achievement made possible by its close working relationship with the School. The achievement of University status for the Trust in 2010 has paved the way for new ventures such as the joint University Department of Mental Health for collaborative research, education and practice development. All this is in large part due to Roger's drive and enthusiasm.

Above all, Roger is known for his vision – a personal vision which he has given to the Trust: 'To provide services which we ourselves would like to receive and which we would recommend to our family and friends'. A colleague sums him up well: he has 'always seemed to go that extra mile to ensure that the patient and staff experience and lives come before the Trust's - while still managing to more than meet any agreed external standards'. So it is as a man of vision and outstanding leadership that we celebrate Roger today.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Roger Browning, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.