

Double Presidential Visit for Hospital's Women's Services

On Tuesday 18th December, the Heads of two of the most influential and significant professional organisations for the medical care of women across the UK will be making a visit to witness the latest innovations in Maternity care at South London Healthcare NHS Trust.

The success of South London Healthcare NHS Trust or SLHT's improvements and developments in Women's Services has attracted a great deal of attention from the medical profession in 2012. With a number of achievements and accolades, including 'Team of the Year' at the Royal College of Midwives' Annual Awards, staff are delighted to be finishing the year with a visit from two very senior and influential figures in the profession.

Dr. Anthony Falconer is the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, a member of the Associate Parliamentary Health Group and a Consultant Obstetrician at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust which he joined in 1986 and was the lead clinician for gynaecological oncology and colposcopy services from 2000-2007.

He will be joined by the President of the Royal College of Midwives, Professor Lesley Page. With her name creating over 617 hits on a Google search of her name, Professor Page has over 40 years' midwifery experience, been chosen to advise numerous government bodies and committees and continues to be involved in research into models of maternity care.

As well as having a tour of SLHT's facilities and meeting staff, the Presidents will be officially launching the latest initiative from the Trust's 'Caring for Women' campaign – '*Edie the E Midwife*'.

Through the use of social media outlets Facebook (under '*Edie E-Midwife*'), Twitter ('@e_midwife') and from the campaign website, www.caringforwomen.co.uk, Edie the E Midwife is pioneering a new form of 24/7 communication that will give direct access to qualified professionals who can answer all non-urgent questions and enquiries without an expectant mother needing a visit either to or from a midwife.

'We are delighted that two such eminent figures from our profession have wanted and been able to take the time to visit us and see the work we have been doing,' says Donna Ockenden, Chief Midwife and Care Group Director of Family Health at SLHT. 'It is wonderful for all the staff to be recognised in this way and attract such interest in their achievements.'