

## Six Successful Years as Chairman

After six successful years at the helm, Chairman Della M Cannings QPM has taken the decision to step down from her role at the Trust.

Under her leadership, the past six years have seen major advances at YAS and she has played a pivotal role in many of the developments. The performance of the Trust has improved considerably across a broad range of quality indicators, and has achieved and sustained financial stability. Measured against a range of key indicators, including emergency response times, the Trust is currently amongst those in the top performing quartile of ambulance services across the country.

She has led the modernisation and diversification of services, including the expansion of services such as NHS 111 and West Yorkshire Urgent Care, the updating of estate and fleet, increased use of technology and greater integration with the wider health economy and with other emergency services.

She has been a great supporter of the volunteer Community First Responders and the significant increase in the provision of community Public Access Defibrillators. She also created the YAS Forum to ensure closer working with the 5000+ Members of the Trust and endorsed the delivery of CPR training to 30,000+ school-age children through our Restart a Heart initiative.

Della has also been a Board member and the Chairman of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) Council.

### Praise from Colleagues

*“Della has been an inspirational and tirelessly hard-working Chairman who leaves behind a legacy of considerable success and achievement.*

*“She has been a great ambassador for the Trust particularly with our local, regional and national partners in the NHS, other emergency services and, most crucially, with patients and local communities.*

*“Della has been instrumental in making the organisation more clinically-led and patient-focused. She has been central in ensuring the success of key initiatives such as the establishment of our NHS 111 urgent care service, the development of the Manor Mill Resource Centre in Leeds and the introduction of the YAS and Staff Forums.*

*“From the outset Della has seen the importance of staff and public involvement in developing and improving the quality of the services we provide for patients and has personally led on recognising the contribution of staff through the annual WE CARE Awards and Long Service Awards.*

*“Over the period of her Chairmanship YAS has firmly established itself as a beacon of good practice and is recognised across the ambulance sector as leading on the development of national quality standards and urgent care.*



*“On behalf of the whole organisation, I would like to thank Della for the major contribution she has made to Yorkshire Ambulance Service over the past six years and to wish her well for the future.”*

**Rod Barnes, YAS Chief Executive**



*“The Trust has made substantial progress in the face of difficult challenges and Della’s strong leadership of the Board has helped direct these changes for the benefit of patients.*

*“The NHS is indebted to her for the significant personal contribution she has made and giving her time and expertise to Yorkshire Ambulance Service and the wider ambulance community. The ambulance service and the community it serves owe a debt of gratitude to her for her dedicated work.”*

**Sir Peter Carr CBE, Chair of the NHS Trust Development Authority**

*“Della has done an outstanding job and has made a huge contribution to the ambulance sector in our country for which she should feel rightly proud.”*

**Dr Anthony Marsh, AACE Chairman**

