



**For immediate release** – Thursday 4 December 2014

## **New HFMA president calls for finance leaders to be “Stronger together”**

On the final day of the Healthcare Financial Management Association’s annual conference, newly appointed president, Sue Lorimer, rallied finance leaders in advance of another tough year.

In her first speech of the year-long presidency, Sue stressed the crucial role finance managers have to play in working across organisations to transform services.

Sue Lorimer is the Business Director for the NHS Trust Development Authority in the North of England, having taken up the post in April 2013, shortly after the organisation was created. She leads on the finance and business issues associated with the oversight and development of the 18 NHS trusts in the north of England covering a patch stretching from Cumbria to East Cheshire and Merseyside to Hull.

*Sue said: ‘My theme for 2015 will be “Stronger Together” and that is as relevant for the HFMA working with partners as it is for every organisation in the NHS as we continue to cope with the tough economic climate. As President of HFMA, I want to support our members to be strong and resilient to cope with the challenges ahead.*

Echoing HFMA’s Temperature Check research, Sue continued: *“HFMA research released earlier this week shows that next year could be the hardest year that many of our FDs have ever faced as 74% of trust finance directors forecast a worsening position. They are telling us that system leadership, collaboration and partnership are key to driving down deficits. The good news is that they do not see the financial problems affecting the quality of care to patients.”*

HFMA is the professional body for senior finance staff working largely in the NHS. Sue is a CIMA qualified accountant and has worked in NHS Finance since 1985. She has been a Finance Director since 1990 holding roles across a variety of NHS provider organisations across Merseyside and Cheshire. Her most recent role was Director of Finance of Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust.

**-ENDS-**

Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA):

- Over 5000 members working largely in NHS finance departments across the UK
- Registered charity status
- 13 branches, covering the four home nations
- A headquarters in Bristol and conference centre in London

- More than 300 partner organisations

HFMA was established in 1950 as an independent and charitable organisation. It represents finance professionals' views to the government and other key national stakeholders such as Monitor, the government's health service regulator, NHS England and the National Trust Development Authority as well as the media. More information can be found here: [www.hfma.org.uk](http://www.hfma.org.uk)



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