



Jan's Weekly Update

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Regroup and refresh

Executives met with managers and clinicians from the organisation this week to discuss plans for the coming two years and, importantly, how we're going to work together as leaders of the Trust to ensure we deliver our plans.

We agreed two key points. First, we need to ensure that all clinical leaders are in the room and part of the decision making and innovation going forward. We will ensure that we arrange meetings to allow clinicians to regularly attend.

Second, when agreed we will use the time when we meet to solve difficult problems - to get the talent in the room to explore and solve current 'wicked issues' that leaders are grappling with. It will be an action learning group not an information sharing group.

Out and about

I visited Stoke Heath prison on Tuesday. The visit reminded me what a complex environment it is to provide good healthcare for the community. The staff are regularly dealing with complex and vulnerable people in a difficult context.

I've also met with Shropshire CAMHS team. They have had a challenging time and have done a great job to sort out some of the issues relating to waiting times and access to the CAMHS service. It was really good to see social workers, nurses, support workers and medics in the same room working together in an integrated way to provide the best support for the young people they work with. The senior leaders and execs are working with staff and commissioners to understand the changing mental health needs of young people and the increasing demand.

My final visit this week took me to Oswestry Health Centre. It's fitting such an impressive building should be home to such high quality services. As well as a long list of community services, including a Minor Injury Unit, the centre also includes services provided by the mental health trust and acute trust. In addition, a local GP surgery is based there. The centre is a great example of integrated health care in the community and it didn't take me long to realise how highly valued it is by the local community.

I was particularly impressed with the new work management tool (known as the 'Oswestry tool'), which is a combination of an IT management tool and two very effective administrators. This was invented by them and has freed up significant time for clinicians to care, prioritise and manage their work more effectively. I know there's a plan for this to be rolled out across the community teams. It's a great innovation.

Get the jab, get Flu Safe

I won't apologise in reminding you all to get your free flu jab! The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS FT and South Staffordshire and Shropshire Mental Health NHS FT saw, respectively, 70% and 80% of their frontline staff immunised last year, while just over 40% of our staff involved in direct patient care did so. I know we can do much better than that this year, so please do your bit to reduce the spread of the virus and help protect yourself, your colleagues and family and most importantly your patients. Our present uptake is only 18% so we have some way to go.

Jan Ditheridge
Chief Executive