



Jan's Weekly Update

Issue 6 - 08.11.13



It's been a week in the office, preparing agendas and reports for the Board in a week's time. The Board is focused on two important areas: strategy - where are we going and are we on plan; and assurance - are we delivering high quality services and if there's a problem in one of our services what are we doing to put it right.

As you probably know, this meeting is held in public to demonstrate openness and transparency and give people the chance to ask questions of the Board. So it's really important the agenda and papers support the Board to cover all of these areas.

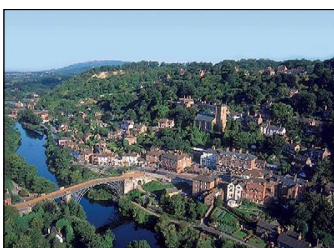
Making the vision a reality

I met with the Consultant group on Thursday which was really helpful. They gave me the opportunity to talk about my vision for the future and I heard about their aspirations, concerns and ideas. It was really good to see managers and Consultants in the same room debating issues together.

One of the things that keeps getting replayed to me - and the Consultants were no exception - is that they've heard the vision many times but nothing happens. My response is that the vision for community services isn't going to change; the real challenge will be to make it a reality, as they say! Everyone is signed up to care closer to home, reducing acute admissions, reducing footprint into people's homes, increasing meaningful interventions and supporting people to live well.

We already do many of these things and need to plan ways in which we can improve the way they're done to improve this further. We also need to be much better at influencing and driving the community agenda in the wider health and social care economy. We have specialist knowledge that can support commissioners and strategic planners and, importantly, patients and carers to make their vision a reality. This requires an involvement from us all - especially clinicians - and it's my job with the Executive Team to provide opportunities for you to do that, turn clinical ideas and innovations into business plans and support implementation.

Making our voice heard



We also need to ensure that clinicians are at the table and have a big voice on local health economy-wide projects, such as the Clinical Services Review being led by local CCGs into the best way forward for acute and community services, to ensure everyone understands the huge part community services can play in meeting the challenges ahead. We need to lead the way!

Our clinicians have been invited to have their say as part of the Call to Action consultation and we're meeting with some of them beforehand to ensure they're properly supported and equipped to get their messages across loud and clear.

We have 15 invitations to the Call to Action conference in Telford on 25th November, which will reveal the results of the consultation and also be the official public introduction of the Clinical Services Review. We intend to field our most influential leaders - managers and clinicians - to make sure our voice is heard. More information about Call to Action can be found by visiting www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk or www.telfordccg.nhs.uk.

You all have networks and influence within your area of expertise; use them to influence the future. The things that succeed always have a leader behind them with a sensible idea and the resilience to see it through to implementation.

And finally...

I ended the week - as many of us do! - working out my work mileage. In my first month here I've done over a thousand miles and, other than one trip to Liverpool, it was all in Shropshire visiting services and teams. We really do work in a big county don't we! Those of us based in an office should always remember just how big Shropshire is when supporting clinical staff to do their jobs out in the field ... and also when we're planning services fit for the future!



So, whether you're working or off this weekend have a good one.

Please make sure to drop me an email at jan.ditheridge@shropcom.nhs.uk if you have any questions, concerns or comments you would like me to know about.

Jan Ditheridge
Chief Executive