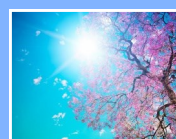




Jan's Weekly Update

Issue 104 - 30.10.2015



As Jan has taken today off, I am really grateful to her giving me the opportunity to take her slot this week and say hello to you all. I am struggling with my perception of time, as it has been a month since I took up post and it has flown by. This must reflect the immense amount of learning I am experiencing whilst I am settling in! So, I thought I would share with you my first impressions, how I have spent my time over the last week or so and perhaps give you an early indication in broad terms where I might be focussing my time and effort . . . This in turn may give you a bit of a flavour of 'me'!

First impressions are ones that stay with you the longest and the overriding positive things that have impacted on me is how up front and centre you put the quality of our care and how wide and vibrant the range of outlooks, professions and services we have under our wing. I have been lucky enough to be able to attend two of the Big Day's Out and the Celebrating Success Event, which were great opportunities to meet a lot of you. This has been alongside more formal induction meetings and generally getting into the swing of our governance processes, so being part of key meetings such as our Resource and Performance Committee and Board Meeting this week, are real bread and butter aspects of my role and a great place to start to get my feet under the table.

Where else have I been? I have been able to visit our Community Hospitals – Whitchurch, Bridgnorth, Bishops Castle and Ludlow . . . and this has been a great opportunity to 'find my way' around the inpatient care we provide, as well as how we co-locate with others . . . I would really like to thank those who have kindly taken time out to guide me round and show me what you are proud of and discuss the issues that we are yet to resolve. I have more to see though . . . I would be happy to receive suggestions for 'where next'.

Otherwise, I have been spending time with my finance team and some of the managers who will be in my 'portfolio' once Andrew Ferguson retires at the end of this week, so I will have an even bigger learning curve coming my way. However, the world and life for the Trust does not stand still - meetings with our regulator the Trust Development Authority took place last week and they are naturally concerned to understand how we are effectively managing our resources, as well as being instrumental in approving key things we want to do such as the Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system. We are working very closely with them to make sure they can provide us with the approvals we need to move this on locally – more on that in the near future.

So, what I believe I will be focussing on with colleagues and with all of you is how we meet the challenge of keeping our services sustainable . . . this is something that is a challenge for all in the care sector, whether that be health or social care and we have to continue to play our part. I will be keen to understand the outcome of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review on the 25 November, so we can quickly translate what we think it might mean to us and to others close to us. I am also keen to play the right part in the discussions that are relevant to us in taking the Future Fit programme forward for Shropshire. Equally importantly I want to make sure that I support and encourage everyone in the organisation feels they can play their part; in reducing waste, in doing things better and with the emphasis on improving things for patients – I am a firm believer in the strong binding connection between quality, safety and the effective use of resources and I look forward to discussing this with you in the future and hearing your ideas and views.

There were some specific things that I also wanted to share with you . . .

Firstly, Jan received a letter from the CQC this week (attached), which she has asked me to share with you - it is important that you take the time to read it and share it with your colleagues. It is really important that you feel comfortable and confident to talk to the CQC when they are with us and would encourage you to do so.

Secondly, I wanted to tell you about the generosity of one person who has left Bridgnorth Hospital a significant legacy in their will. It is always humbling that people will remember our care or services in such a way that they want to leave a lasting legacy as a thank you. It is a real responsibility to spend this legacy wisely and I know that we will consider carefully how this is used to benefit patients for years to come.

We say goodbye today to two Andrews today! Andrew Ferguson and Andrew Coleman . . . we thank them wholeheartedly for their contribution to our services and wish them both well for the future.

And finally, I wanted to commend to you the Cycle to Work Scheme, which enables staff to pay a monthly salary sacrifice and buy a bike at a discount equivalent to the amount of tax you would have paid on that salary. I have made a personal commitment to cycle or work to work twice a week and have just picked up my new bike (1 week from order to collection – not bad!). . . however, I got caught out by the clocks going back on Sunday and forgot that I needed my lights for my cycle home on Monday, so had an unplanned walk instead.



I started with a note of gratitude and I am going to end with one, which I want to extend to Sarah Lloyd, who has been acting as Finance Director for the Trust for the past few months. I would like to put on the record how grateful I am that she has provided the leadership that she has and the important continuity that she now provides is a huge asset for the Trust.

I now hand back to Jan for next week's update.

Thank you.

Ros Francke

Director of Finance



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