



# Jan's Weekly Update

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## Planning for the Future

It's been a week of planning and development for me this week. Some of you will know that the planning guidance for all trusts and CCGs come out over Christmas and not long after that (this week in fact) the amount of money each CCG will get.

We have to consider if our plans for the future comply with the guidance and take any new opportunities that might be available to us, for example there may be specific funding for a certain patient group or a focus on a particular pathway to improve care and services.

This year we knew that there would be an emphasis on the development of a strategic plan for the whole health economy in partnership with social care as well as individual plans for each organisation. I think this is a brilliant opportunity for our economy to really get into the detail of how we deliver Future Fit but also more importantly the community offer including rural urgent care and primary care.

This has been the topic of conversation at our Board development session on Tuesday and the time out with the Exec team on Thursday. How do we contribute to the system wide plan and influence the role of community in the future of our services? This obviously isn't the start of a new plan as we have been thinking this through for some time, but it does give us the opportunity to build on our partnerships, plans and aspirations for the future of community services, and most importantly work together as a system to deliver services for Shropshire. Something our patients have been asking us to do for some time!

## Leaving Do

I went to Stephen Chandlers leaving do on Wednesday - he is or was the Director of Adult Social Care in Shropshire - we have worked really closely with him and his team to get ICS off the ground so personally and I know many of the team will miss him as he goes off to pastures new. He lives near me in Worcestershire and has commuted to Shrewsbury every day for 8 years - which is about 2400 miles a month X 8 years - I'll let you work that out!

Andy Begley is taking over from him at least in the short term - we work closely with Andy now and know he is as committed as we are to integration in the interest of more joined up care for patients - so we are confident we can continue to develop integrated services.

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

I spent the day in Bishops Castle yesterday with my new team. It was such a lovely drive up here though Hope Valley - snow on the hills and blue sky for a change. I met with Mel Duffy early before the rest arrived - just to catch up and see how her induction is going - she couldn't get over how beautiful rural Shropshire is - and the staff on the ward took the time to explain what great opportunities there are to work with the local partners in health and care and the community to secure rural services for the future here. I had already told her that obviously, but she got it first hand from those who live and work here. Mel will be critical in developing the rural community offer so it was good for her to see what it means first hand.

## Working As A Team

I took my team out of their daily routine to get to know each other better - because with two new members it's critical they know what each other's style of working is, what their priorities are and to learn to work together - all teams have to do this and a day investment saves so much time later on and in my experience can save a lot of heartache - getting clarity on what makes each team member tick can avoid misunderstandings and help get the best out of each other.



We then went out for our tea together at the Three Tuns - another way of getting to know each other quickly!

I'm waiting to go into the dentist (very early) before making my way to a meeting with the MPs at Shirehall to update them on health matters (not just me - the CCG and Acute chief executives too) then the urgent care board. I know people have worked really hard to maintain flow of patients through our community beds and community teams this week and we can't take our foot off the gas if we are going to ensure that our patients are getting a good and safe experience. It's getting colder so we may see more people with winter related problems.

## So It's Getting Colder

Hopefully you have all seen the weather warnings about the cold weather - I hope you are all careful on the roads, following the lone working policy and travelling with kit to keep you warm! The drive from Bishops Castle back to Malvern last night reminded me how challenging your jobs in the community can be after dark and at this time of year.



## What Keeps Us Motivated?

After our Board meeting on Tuesday in Stirchley Health Centre, Steve Gregory, Julie Thornby and I popped down to see the DNs - only one was in the office because it was late but we had a really motivating conversation about the new recruits she was looking forward to starting. This individual (who I won't name so not to embarrass) was still full of enthusiasm and was looking forward to learning new things from the new recruits who hadn't worked on the district before but had loads of skills and knowledge from other areas to bring with them. When you've been doing the job for a long time which I knew this nurse had its sometimes hard to have the energy for the new and enthusiastic especially when it's busy - but this nurse and team did - passing on their knowledge and refreshing theirs through the new recruits. Brilliant !

## Losing "Old Friends"

I'm still in shock about David Bowie passing away - he was - well his music was - a big part of my young life - and I still have the vinyl to prove it (although no record player to play it!) I was very sad but did smile when I heard The Laughing Gnome was his most requested song on the radio the day he died - what's that all about?

Until next week ....

Jan Ditheridge  
Chief Executive

