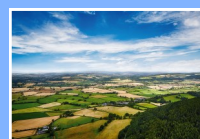




# Jan's Weekly Update

Issue 132 - 13.05.2016



I drive into Birmingham very early to miss the traffic for my monthly Friday meeting with Chief Execs and NHS Improvement (our regulator) and grab a coffee in a hotel near by and write my update.

If I buy a coffee they let me park here which is a real help in this part of Birmingham. It's a busy little hotel with a mix of business people and tourists. There is a large group of Japanese tourists here this morning - I wonder where they are going? I bet they've been to Stratford? They should come to Shropshire.....one of England's best kept secrets. I drove home last night to Malvern via Ludlow. It was absolutely stunning all the way home through three counties - and not a motorway insight.

## Induction

So I started the week welcoming lots of new people into the organisation - it's really good to see that people are now getting on to induction within a couple of weeks of starting in the organisation - still a few slipping through but were getting there. It's really important that everyone starts their jobs understanding some basics about us and get the opportunity to meet people who will help them through the first few months while they get the hang of things.

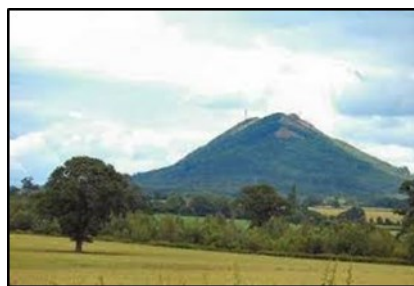
## Staying on Track

More performance reviews this week - a chance for teams to review the last six months and focus on the next. An opportunity to celebrate success and learn where we can do better. There is a good balance of challenge now without it feeling personal - although I know it still feels a bit personal if you're in the spotlight and there's something that just won't improve despite concerted effort. That's probably when you need help.

I've missed a couple of them this time - I don't like to do that but there have been some things I just had to go to, to make sure we were represented. I'm sorry about that teams - but you can be sure I always read the stuff you prepare and get feedback from the other Directors. And I send them in with my questions!

## Future Fit

I'm sure many of you have read the papers this week and know that there has been quite a lot of coverage about the future of the Acute Hospital model in Shropshire (FutureFit). This is really important to us as the future model will influence how we deliver community services in the future. The proposed model is predicated on more services locally (which we all support ) but there are worries for some that plans are not detailed enough to demonstrate how that will happen without putting extra pressure on primary and community services.



I spent most of yesterday in meetings discussing this. I think we need to remember that this is a plan that will change things up to and in about 5 years time - we have the time to work through how we will provide local services differently - although this is absolutely critical we do this now. I know some of you have been involved in this work and I am keen we stay engaged to contribute our expertise.

It's critical we work with all our partners, particularly primary care, to ensure we support them to develop services that will support our communities in the future. We are starting to see much closer working and planning with our GPs than certainly I've seen since I started here which is great. I also think the work we are doing with mental health and social care will strengthen our opportunities to design and deliver many more integrated services for our communities in the future.

Simon Wright (the Acute Chief Exec) and I are meeting with a number of GPs next week to see if we can work differently to improve services locally now as well as in the future, and Mel our Director of Strategy has also been meeting with GPs to explore opportunities this week.

All of this will mean we need to stay flexible, delivering care today, thinking about services for the future and changing things where we can see it will improve patient and staff experience. It also means we have to be prepared to change, do things differently, make mistakes and try again - but we are good at that aren't we.....?

Time to go in to my meeting so until next week.....

Jan Ditheridge  
Chief Executive



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