



Jan's Weekly Update

With Ros Preen, Director of Finance

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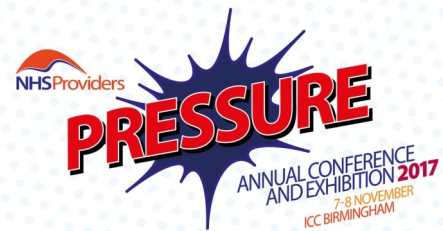
As Jan continues her holiday this week, I have volunteered to step in and provide this week's brief. It's a while since I have done one but as I sit here thinking I am conscious of the opportunity it gives to reflect on the past few days and think about what I would say to any of you if you were sat with me face to face right now.

It's been an unusual week in some ways, I have definitely been looking outward, which is an important thing to do from time to time and there are a couple of things I would want to chat to you about;

Firstly you will all have received the note via email this week that announced the formal process for finding our new partner organisation has commenced. I see this as 'pressing the go button' that will allow the activities that will form the assessment and decisions to take place. The message went out on behalf of the whole Board and there was a reason for that. It is important that you know that we continue to be fully behind the opportunity of exploring a new future with our partners and we will remain diligent and focussed on determining the best overall option. In line with our value that 'everyone counts', staff get the opportunity to engage in this as well – dates for workshops will be issued shortly. I would encourage you to talk about your views and thoughts on this in your teams. There will be a range of opinions, as there generally is on most things but I would want to encourage a healthy debate. Remember, if you have questions you want answered then let me remind you that questions can be posted to this email address: shropcom.communications@nhs.net

The second thing was an important national event that took place earlier this week; NHS Providers (we have long held membership of this organisation who represent the interests of those who provide NHS Care) held their annual national conference in Birmingham and I attended to enable me to take into account the political and structural issues being faced on the national stage. Hearing the likes of Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Health) and Simon Steven's (Chief Executive of NHS England) speaking gave me a good insight as to what was important to them.

The money the NHS receives was top of the list of hot topics, particularly in the two weeks running up to the Autumn budget and there were some dire warnings about the future without more investment. Pressure on the Chancellor must be great at this time and we will see what the outcome is on the 22nd November. I hope he is in the position to respond! I thought it was really good that Mental Health Services and Parity of Esteem was also major agenda item at this event but I remained disappointed that the valuable work done in the community did not receive more of a focus. It seems crazy to me! I am sure that the feedback I and others give will be considered for the future. I was also mindful however that we remain one of the 50% of NHS healthcare provider organisations in the country who are delivering their financial targets. It probably feels tough at times, and we would always want more resources to do more with but for now I am reflecting on a couple of things –one, that there are others who are in a much worse position than us and what must that be like? and two, that our ideas about how we might expand and remodel our services and contribute to solving some of Shropshire's healthcare problems are developing all of the time, and how good will that be if we get our ideas commissioned?



I'm looking forward to the weekend and welcoming Jan back from her break on Monday.

Hope you have a good week ahead . . .

Until next time . . .

Ros Preen

Director of Finance

