



Jan's Weekly Update

Jan Ditheridge, Chief Executive

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Are you ready for Christmas?

I've had to take an emergency annual leave day tomorrow (Friday) because I suddenly realised I'm not ready for Christmas! I have everything I need but not necessarily in the right place.

Working away from home is OK you just have to be a bit more organised and I think I miscalculated - so tomorrow Christmas will happen in my house!

We had a Secret Santa in our office - they all opened their presents - I was shocked - not until Christmas Day!!! What's your protocol? I know some of you chose to donate to charities this year especially remembering those who don't have anything to open or even eat at Christmas!

I always get my team a small gift to thank them for their year's work - this year I got them while in Cambodia at an amazing place providing work and skills training for Cambodians who are experiencing poverty, either through disability (including land mine injuries) or circumstance.

Catching Up

On my journey into work on Monday I popped in to see if any of the IDT team were around - most weren't because they had gone straight out to visits although I did manage to catch two of the team. A flying visit as they were busy and ready to go out but enough time to discuss the snow (yes we really did have heaps of snow and freezing temperatures only a week ago) and catch up on how things were going generally. It was nice to see them.

I heard a rumour ...

That some of our District nurses are worried that they might lose their jobs when we become part of a new organisation - I don't think there's anything further from the truth. We are looking for a partner to help us expand community services not make them smaller - I can't think there is any reason that District nurses will lose their jobs. If any of you are worried please speak to your Manager, Union rep. or me!!

We want you to stay working with us and not be worried about things that aren't happening.

Another visit to the Dentists..

This time Nuala O'Kane one of our Non Executive Directors and I went to see Paul Zubkowski and the team at Castle Foregate Street Clinic. I had some great feedback from them and from a colleague of mine who used their services yesterday, "The service was brilliant" "they were a credit to the NHS".

I knew that but it's good to hear it from others!

Our dental teams work with some of the most vulnerable, underprivileged people in our society, often during unsocial hours (including Christmas). Listening to their patient stories was heart warming and sad - heart warming because they are making a difference to people struggling in their world and sad because it's a reminder of the tricky lives some people cope with.

But you know this in the jobs you all do....

We need to help them get into better accommodation and improve the connectivity of their IT systems, and we will talk to Commissioners to see if they can be more clear about the future models of service delivery, the rest they get on with themselves. Constantly improving practice, skills and systems to make it better for the people they serve.

One last word about the snow...

At our Board meeting today the Chairman wanted a formal minute recording of the outstanding effort of our staff and their friends and families to keep the show on the road and a big thank you from all Board members.

Well my attention does need to turn to Christmas now.

I hope all of you get some time off with family and friends - to relax and celebrate Christmas.

Thank you to all of those working during the Bank Holidays - I hope to see some more of you over the holiday period.

But if I don't until next week.....

Happy Christmas

Until next week....

Jan Ditheridge
Chief Executive



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