



Jan's Weekly Update

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The Week In Between

An odd time that gap between Christmas and New Year - when does "Happy Christmas" stop and "Happy New Year" start?

For some of us it's a time to take well deserved time off, for example our finance team traditionally find it a good time to take leave in preparation for the hectic financial year end work coming in the new calendar year, a time for others to catch up with paperwork, reading, mandatory training or filing because there are no meetings and for others it's a really busy time giving direct patient care.

I was at Ludlow yesterday and popped in to see them before my meeting with Peter Corfield the League of Friends Chair.

Dinham ward staff had a tough time over Christmas, their patients were poorly and on Christmas Day they cared for patients who sadly passed away. I could see they recognised it was a difficult event and they would support each other and talk about it - caring for people at the end of their lives is an important part of our work - and done well is immensely rewarding - but it does take its toll emotionally so should be recognised and time taken to reflect, to top up that personal emotional bank.

It's A Small World

I had a chat with a few of the patients and found myself in a conversation with a gentleman who grew up a couple of streets away from my Dad! A lovely man who told me about his life as an RAF pilot (starting in the 2nd World War). I was about to leave the bay when another man called me over when I caught his eye - a man sitting quietly who had some problems speaking - he wanted to tell me he too had been an RAF man - he had listened to our conversation and wanted to join in. Such a privilege to hear their stories.

I then saw Suzy one of our Community Nurses, who was holding the fort, manning phones and seeing patients in the IDT office - the rest of the team were all out on visits, a really busy time still hampered by icy and slippery country roads.

MIU were recovering from a busy time the day before as people started to move around and have accidents! And I just missed most of the kitchen staff who had finished for the day - but met Lyn who cleans up and ensures the patients get their tea every day. We hadn't met before so good to meet her.

Other things

I've used some of the time this week to catch up with my team, the CCG lead for Shropshire - I was keen to find out what the next steps for the Community Services Review are and how we can advance our ideas for out of hospital care in the future, and as I said earlier the League of Friends Chair, Peter.

Important Reading

We now have the initial bids in from the two organisations that want to take on our services - SATH and SSSFT - so I've also spent some serious time reading those.

We have planned a number of opportunities for many of you to meet and ask both organisations what they are thinking and for you to feed back your views. This is my chance to interrogate their bids!

So

I hope those of you who worked Christmas are now taking some time off.

For those working over New Year— Thank you

And to all of you Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you in 2018.

Until next year

Jan Ditheridge

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