



Jan's Weekly Update

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It's beginning to look a bit like Christmas....

That's the song that greeted me when I asked our Emergency Planning lead for an update on our preparations for the cold snap we knew was coming our way on Monday. I think he thought it was funny....

Being prepared

Behind the humour there has been a lot of hard work this week across the county to prepare for the worst - I popped into Bridgnorth Hospital yesterday and could see that they had changed shifts, rota's and travel arrangements in case we had a repeat of the December snow. It doesn't matter if we don't need the plans in the end, the most important things are that we are prepared to deliver care and services and that you keep safe whatever the weather.



It looks like North Shropshire will get off lightly, but South Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire have been hit with plenty of snow overnight. I came home to Malvern yesterday afternoon and although a bit slippery in places I was fine for the 70 mile trip - until I got 50 yards from my home where I suddenly slid on a steep hill just missing a badly parked car. I've driven for years but needed my neighbour to talk me out of my skid because it scared me a bit - well a lotHowever he talked me through and I navigated the ice rink to get my car to a safe place.

While I was at Bridgnorth I got the opportunity to see the new XR facility - funded by us and the League of Friends. It really is state of the art - as a junior nurse I spent half my life in XR supporting injured and sick people to get into the right position and to hold the plates if necessary - not necessary anymore! The imaging is instant making it more comfortable, efficient and safe.

I also got the chance to meet one of our new radiographers who I first met on Induction - it's really nice to hear and see how our new staff are settling in. She has clearly been welcomed into the hospital.

Patients need a plan too

Many of the In patients were in their fleecy blankets but all warm and enjoying a cooked lunch. All told me they felt cared for very well and the food was good. Some weren't sure what the plan was for them which may have been because they had forgotten but it would be good to hear that our patients understand their plans while in hospital and how and when they will get home.

Other things

I hope you've seen the communication about our future. We talked to NHSI (our regulators) over this week because they want a bit more time to consider the bids from SATH and SSSFT and all the feedback we gave them from our meetings with them. We will keep in touch with them to make sure we get a new timeline - in reality the originally planned meeting today would have been cancelled anyway because of the snow!

You may also hear people giving their opinion on what should happen as we get closer to a decision - I know some of you have already told me you've heard things - but they don't have all the facts, or all the feedback from you - everyone is entitled to an opinion of course, I'm sure you have one, but a final decision will be based on a lot of scrutiny of the facts and detail; to ensure we do what we set out to do. In the meantime we have plenty of work with our patients to keep us busy!

Back to the beginning

My week started with a fabulous morning at a venue in Shrewsbury welcoming prospective new volunteers to a taster morning run by our Patient Carer panel - it opened with a song to warm us up (not my finest talent) then lots of opportunity for new people to hear about the many ways they can get involved in our organisation - it was a fabulous morning - I'm so proud of the work our Patient Carer panel do to support us, help us improve and keep us on track through the eyes of our patients.

It was also great to see members of staff who are working in partnership with the Patient Carer panel to enhance the experience for patients. The respiratory team are looking for volunteers to spend a bit of time with the patients they see who they've identified are lonely and anxious - affecting their breathing; but this significantly improves with some company and distraction. I think we can all relate to that.



Brilliant start to the week - despite my lack of singing talent!!

I'm going to check in with services now to see where we need to focus support today so stay safe, keep warm and thank you for continuing to deliver great care despite the weather!

So until next week....

Jan Ditheridge,
Chief Executive

