



Jan's Weekly Update

Jan Ditheridge, Chief Executive

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Shoes ...

Three times this week Shoes have been central to my conversation - the first two when trying to help people understand why people do what they do (walk a mile in their shoes) - especially under pressure or without the right information and training - the other when Nuala O'Kane and I met with the South East IDT yesterday - I asked what they were most proud of and Tracey Fisher, Clinical Practice Teacher told me she helped a lady get back into her SHOES.



A simple task for most of us but all of that team knew for that lady getting into a pair of shoes was the difference between independence, mobility, full life or being trapped, immobile and miserable without them. It was that patients greatest wish, which seemed insurmountable to her when she looked at her painful swollen infected feet and legs - but through excellent care and attention they did it - she got in her shoes and now she's on holiday

Good to see the team in Much Wenlock - they've had a tough time with vacancies and some long term poorly staff but I think team effort has carried them through and things are starting to improve. What struck me is they still found time (and that was in short supply) for training, supervision and the odd night out. They've made some changes to make things quicker and better - and I think there is more they could do with a bit of help from leaders and corporate staff so we'll see what we can do.

Uplifting and thought provoking visit - it could have been one of those NHS at 70 things on the TV.

The Future

It's been a week with lots of meetings for our Board - first to talk about money and performance on Monday then our proper Board meeting yesterday which we had at Halesfield where we discussed quality, tenders we are presently going for and the Board development programme.

On Monday we also met with a couple of people helping us to work through what we do now we know we are not going to join another organisation - they have been asked by our Regulators NHS to help us understand what's possible. Things have changed so much since we first decided we needed to be part of something bigger and the real emphasis on community care has captured everyone's attention - so there will be other ways we can strengthen our services in the future - short term we carry on getting all our services to good and beyond, finish implementing RiO, progress any plans we have that make life better for patients and staff and work with our partners to do more together for the benefits of patients and their families. Then what happens in the future will I'm sure reveal itself. We know what we need to do and we will keep chipping away at that.

Planning for the future is important - doing today well is critical!

The value of Admin.

I said goodbye to my PA, Paula today - she had been covering when Diane (my permanent PA) moved to work in Ops and Nursing with Steve Gregory - Steve's PA moved into a different role so it was our contribution to share the expertise and skills we have in the office. I will miss Paula and really miss Di but sometimes we have to make decisions that benefit the team - and take some short term pain - I have a new PA starting soon. I know many of you have to manage without Admin help - for a long time I've tried to squirrel away part of my budget to make sure I have that support - It's worth its weight in gold releasing time for me to focus on so much more and use the skills I have effectively - do what I'm good at which isn't Admin!

Anyway cut me a bit of slack if I don't reply to your email straight away, lose my way to a meeting or seem to have the wrong papers. Normal service will be resumed soon.

NHS70

Last Friday some of our people received presentations from Philip Dunne MP in honour of NHS70 and to celebrate the work they do. Sadly I couldn't make it to the presentations but just in case you didn't see them on social media I thought I'd share the photos.



Jill Absolon, a Paediatric Physiotherapist, and Lewis Brown, a Paediatric Occupational Therapist, received certificates recognising their nominations for an NHS70 Parliamentary Award in a presentation at Shirehall in Shrewsbury.



Mr Dunne made a third presentation to Bishop's Castle GP Dr Adrian Penney, who is a partner in the town's GP Surgery, as well as a doctor at its community hospital.

We are doing lots to mark NHS70 - some of our staff have already been to Royal Garden Parties, there is a big bash at WFH on July 3rd, I'm taking two of our staff to York Minster and the Chairman is taking two to Westminster next Thursday to national events, and I know many of you are doing local things.

I know the team are looking for NHS stories, 70 of them - they asked me but I thought we should hear from you I'm telling them all the time - you have some fabulous stories over many years.

We should start with the shoes.....

Until next week

Jan

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