



Jan's Weekly Update

Jan Ditheridge, Chief Executive

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What A Week

I don't know where to start? It should probably be with a Happy Birthday NHS and therefore Happy Birthday to us!

I am in York making my way back after a fabulous evening at York Minster with Liz Watkins, Indu Mahabeer and hundreds of other health staff to celebrate the NHS at 70.

I'm not sure what I was expecting, but it was an uplifting experience in a beautiful setting. We heard from young and old - sharing their stories about why the NHS has made a difference. The Colliery band (very Yorkshire) were fabulous, and we all joined in some very well known and emotive songs. (Very hard to reach some of those notes!) I saw my whole career play out in front of me - patients I nursed, staff I worked with who influenced me, laughed and cried with me, members of the public I've listened to and senior managers and politicians I've tried to influence. Always trying to make it better, different, excellent.

The event seemed to capture the week I've had, which actually started last Friday when I took visitors with a national profile around the county - two people who influence government, policy makers and leaders on NHS Providers' behalf. I was determined to bring Community services, Rural/Urban services and our beautiful county to life. The weather helped, and their jaws dutifully dropped as I drove them round the county from Telford to Ludlow and back to Shrewsbury - I did ask them to consider this trip in the snow, show them where our community staff spend most of their time and point out they couldn't tweet - no signal!

Their first stop was to meet a number of our Children's team in Telford. I was so proud of them - they bombarded them with brilliant stories of the role of schools nurses, health visitors, FNP and safeguarding. They shared the good, the great and the challenges. My visitors remarked after that they had never met such an enthusiastic, passionate team. They were buzzing when we left there.

Off to Ludlow - they've never visited a community hospital before and Jane, the team and one of our GPs really helped them understand the joys, challenges and importance of facilities and services in rural areas. Proud again! Mission accomplished.

And This Week?

Well I hope you've heard we've now secured the new contract for Out of Hours in partnership with Shropdoc? Those of you who already work closely with Shropdoc colleagues will know how brilliant it will be to have an even closer relationship with them to provide community care. I'm really excited about this.

Ludlow XR - we have a new XR funded by the League of Friends which some of you know - we were having trouble progressing the work to get it fitted. An intervention from me and were up and running. Very satisfying - sometimes you have to go round the bureaucracy.

NHS70 - loads of things our staff have been involved in and please look at our communications showing some of them.

Jeremy Hunt Secretary of State gave a speech last night in York and said he wished we could have squeezed all 1.2 million NHS staff in the Cathedral. So instead we represented 1200 staff each - and I know everyone who's received an award or been to a civil event will know it's for them and for the team back at home. We knew we were representing everyone at Shropcom.



Pause For A Moment

I've had two communications this week - they are anonymous. One from a member of staff and one from the worried dad of a member of our staff. Both are struggling with things they think aren't right at work but don't feel able to identify themselves or speak out.



I just want you all to remember Everyone Counts, we treat people with Respect and Dignity, and you can speak out safely. We can't solve everything immediately but you have a duty of care to yourself, your team and your patients to come forward. I guarantee you will be listened to.

We will continue to work together to ensure everyone feels able to speak out, be listened to, heard and empowered to take action. Many of you already do but not everyone yet - It's not a task, it's a way of life. We will all keep working on it...

Of course we will also pay attention to the anonymous concerns I'm pleased they reached out, even though it's a bit more tricky when we don't know where or the detail.

I'm going to end this week with the chorus of a song we sang in the Cathedral last night. You might love it or think it's a bit cheesy, but you all know it. Sing it out loud in your team, alone in the car or hum it in your head while with a patient - be so proud you work for the NHS.

*Walk on, through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on Walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone.....*

(Oscar Hammerstein 11)

Until next week.....

Jan

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