



Jan's Weekly Update

With Ros Preen, Director of Finance and Strategy

Issue 269 — 28.12.2018



Happy Christmas to you all.

I'm back in the office now, possibly glad of a bit of a break from the food at home to be honest! Jan is on leave so I said I would do the weekly brief slot for her. I hope you managed to take some time to spend it in whatever way was right for you.



It can be a happy, fulfilling time in so many different ways – indulging in self or others, sharing or caring. For me, this year was a focus on quality time with my parents, oh and having fun – we played an outrageous card game on Boxing Day which had us all in stitches... I haven't laughed so much for a long while, which was great.

I am conscious that the festive season can also be a very difficult time . . . it's always the 'ying and yang' of life.

I came into the office today to the very first message in my inbox conveying the sad news of the death a very dear colleague and friend on Christmas Eve. I knew he was spending his last days in a hospice but was sad he didn't make it to Christmas Day as I knew this was important for his family.

We had been texting messages over the weekend. Our texts were amazingly normal, sad and funny (always a great sense of humour). Tony worked for a long while for the NHS and he always called it as it was; the care he received both in hospital and at home by the NHS and in the hospice in the last two weeks were just what he wanted during the end stage of his life. He was always in control of what was happening to him, making choices and I am really proud of that being the case... somehow, I think we all feel connected to care given under the banner of the NHS wherever it is in the country.

The next email I read... back to the coal face for me in my role – the much awaited 2019/2020 Preparatory Planning Guidance. This is the information the Government (well, Department of Health to be more precise) sends out each year, indicating what the key national priorities are, how much money is available to fund NHS services etc. Still quite headline and there is more to come in the new year.



I will be looking into what this means for us, our services and our partners... one of my jobs on the new year 'to do' list. Getting our plans for the year right, staying focussed on providing the best care we can with what we have available to us and hopefully having the opportunity to develop some new or different approaches to patient care means it should be an exciting 12 months ahead.

It's going to be an important start to the new year, as Jan indicated in her pre-Christmas Weekly Brief. We heard just before Christmas that the CQC will be guests in the Trust in early January to come and look at some of our clinical services again and in early March to review our 'leadership' at all levels. More information will be available with regard to these visits in due course.



I am waiting and wanting, like Jan said last week, to see our services and teams taking the opportunity to showcase the excellent work and care we provide, whether that be over holiday periods, or the more normal weeks of the year.

So, thank you to all of those of you who were working over Christmas, supporting people to live their lives as well as they can, despite the circumstances. For those of you who took a break, I hope you feel refreshed as a result.

Wishing you all a very happy new year.



Ros Preen
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