

Vanessa Barrett

Briefing on activities between December and February for Board meeting 27th February 2020

I attended the quarterly meeting of West Midlands local Healthwatch in December. Imelda Staunton will be our guest at the next one, in the first week of March, when she will explain the new national roles and arrangements for support of local HW. Let Lynn or I know if there is anything specific you would like us to raise.

I attended the session for Trustees on Safeguarding to ensure I keep up to date. The Chief Officer and I met with our commissioner this month and I attended the internal Intelligence Committee and Business Committee meetings, as well as a few external meetings in Shropshire. These included:

The ShropComm Board meeting.

- This was the last Board meeting for Jan Ditheridge. I said to her, and the Chairman, how much HWS has appreciated working with her. She has always been receptive and responsive to our confidential briefings as well as our more formal reports.

The SaTH Board meeting.

- Launch at the beginning of February of a video 'Living Well with Cancer' <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/cancer-services/livingwithandbeyond/videos/>

I was impressed with the video clip we were shown, but even more with the Living With and Beyond Cancer programme.

- Various discussions on different aspects of maternity services. The new Director of Midwifery gave the impression that she has already had an impact and is picking up the pace in addressing some of the wider issues around maternity (e.g. continuity of carer - a requirement of Better Births, staffing ratios etc), in addition to the pre-existing CQC improvement programme in the delivery suite.
- A summary of what has worked well (and not so well) from this winter's planning. Despite the significant year-on-year increase in A&E attendances, and particularly of emergency patients brought by ambulance, the services put in place by the Local Authority have been generally effective in supporting timely discharges. However, there has been an even greater number of DToCs to Powys this winter. These extra-long stays impact on the amount of elective activity that can be undertaken, pushing up waiting lists.

One Primary Care Commissioning (PCC) meeting.

One Acute Reconfiguration (Future Fit) Implementation Oversight Group (IOG) meeting and a meeting this morning of the re-vitalised Travel and Transport group.