

Chair's report March Board

Chrysalis Celebration

It was a real pleasure to attend the celebration of the end of the Chrysalis Project which has run for the last five years, providing transformed accommodation for patients and service users in bright, light and comfortable surroundings and creating an exceptional working environment for our staff. This project has been an excellent example of great partnership working between the contractor, Interclass and the Trust and I would like to reiterate the thanks of the Board to all those involved in making this transformational change to our inpatient services.

Board to Team Visits

We have a well organised schedule of board to team visits, and I know that we all enjoy the opportunity to meet with front line staff and hear about their successes and ambitions for their service. From my own perspective, I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about what services we provide and how we work in partnership with other organisations both within the NHS but also Local Authorities and the Voluntary Sector.

Since the beginning of January, I have had the pleasure of visiting the Bennett Centre twice. The first visit was to the Physical Health Psychology Service and hearing about the range of work they do both in North Staffordshire and across the wider System and into Shropshire where they support the spinal injuries unit at Oswestry. My second visit was only last week to the Mother and Baby Day Service which offers perinatal and postnatal support to parents seven days a week and works in conjunction with Stoke on Trent Council in the Family Hubs across the City. This vital works sets up families and children for the best possible outcomes. It was a particular pleasure to see mums and babies enjoying a play session in the nursery.

My third visit was to the Complex Care Team at Summers View to hear about the care and support given to patients moving from inpatient to community-based care allowing people the time and supportive environment in which to make this transition at their own pace.

The common factor across all these teams was strong local leadership, a supportive team ethos, the effective working across many disciplines, with each contributor valued within the team and a strong drive to educate each other and share knowledge. Also apparent were the strong working partnerships with other services within the Trust and external partners. Each service was able to articulate recent improvements they had made or were underway and we all encouraged the capture and sharing of good ideas and best practice. My thanks to all the teams visited for taking the time to share their thoughts with us and for all they do on a day-to-day basis.

Annual Staff Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the Annual Staff Survey. It is so important that everyone can let us know what they think about being part of Combined and what we can do better so thank you for taking part.

Janet Dawson
Chair