The pivotal role of a Chief Registrar in leading integrated child health through COVID-19

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Morale within the NHS was low before COVID-19 caused confusion, fear and loss of direction. Morale became more important to ensure the ability to navigate this difficult challenge. My role as Chief Registrar was to link executive and junior medical teams. The key to my strategy was early and continued stakeholder engagement.

We identified the ability to communicate with junior medical staff as a weakness. The Trust did not have a list of all junior doctors, or a way to communicate with them. I set up a ‘WhatsApp’ group for all junior medical staff and through this, organised daily video conferences led by a member of the senior clinical team. These conferences included updates on hospital status and guidelines which were then summarised into a text update for those unable to attend. This flexible approach was devised and implemented within a week.

The working environment plays a pivotal role and wellbeing is impacted by access to food and rest. We arranged free food and access to the Doctors Mess, free parking, shower facilities and a ‘wobble room’, where people could go if they felt overwhelmed. We coordinated strategies alongside the Trust wellbeing team and recruited a GP with psychiatry experience to be available for telephone consultations daily.

We used online surveys to assess the impact of our intervention collecting both quantitative and qualitative data. Over 80% of junior doctors felt supported during the pandemic and reported a reduction in anxiety.

Change can happen effectively even during a crisis within a complex system. The morale of the medical workforce has a direct impact on patient safety and the quality of care delivered. The Chief Registrar role has enabled me to lead from within, which is an effective way to implement change by being an authentic voice from within an organisation.
Leading innovation and improvement

**205 TURNING A CRISIS INTO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PRACTICE TEAMS IN NI**

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The emergence of COVID-19 saw a seismic change in General Practice with significant clinical, operational & educational challenges across the whole of the primary care team. Information & guidance from multiple different sources emerged at an overwhelming pace for practitioners. There was no robust way of cascading critical information to individuals. Shielded, remote & sessional health care professionals in particular lacked access to sensitive Health & Social Care Board information.

It was evident that there was a need for a centralised information platform for professionals. This would provide easily accessible, accurate & up to date information on service changes, operational & clinical guidance as well as legislative changes.

An MDT working group, with representatives from all professions including trainees was formed to design a central knowledge repository for the whole primary care team. This ensured all practitioners had access to the latest information, equipping them to deliver high quality care during the pandemic.

From concept to website launch took just three weeks, with a live web-based educational programme starting just one week later & acting as a catalyst for enhanced primary & secondary care understanding & communication.

There are over 150 attendees at weekly live ZOOM educational events, with the programme reflecting learning needs across the whole primary care team. Website analytics confirm ‘Pageviews’ >100,000 & ‘users’ >7,500 & rising with a global audience.

A crisis can bring exciting opportunities & a highly effective team can be created from conception in less than 4 weeks with a shared vision, enthusiasm & determination to make it work.

Collaborative learning between GPs, fledgling MDTs, & across the primary-secondary care interface has united colleagues around a shared purpose, starting solution-focused conversations. Working regionally has provided a platform for shared learning & standardised approach to high quality safe patient care.

Developing effective leaders

**206 GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME: REDUCING MEDICATION ERRORS IN NEUROSURGERY**

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Introduction Errors in neurosurgery have been studied relating to surgical technique, equipment failure, anaesthesia and...