

Editorial

Dear Readers

I write this editorial with great temerity. My gratitude to Andrew Severn and Janet Reed and my clinical colleagues in the Trust for accepting my enthusiasm and ideas to lead the MBMJ forward.

I am full of nervous excitement regarding my ability to fulfil this task as it has for years been skilfully undertaken by Andrew. I would initially be supervised and guided by Janet and Andrew to develop this journal into a more encompassing Journal for the wider NHS services in the Bay. I would endeavour to be inclusive of nursing staff and allied health professionals and the University as well.

I hope with everyone's input, my efforts and the continued support of the Trust it will remain a champion of health care practice in our area.

Enjoy and feedback on this issue please.

Shadaba Ahmed
Editor

News from the office

The physical landscape of University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay has been transformed over the last few months by a series of refurbishment projects. The latest plans to provide a new maternity facility and redesign the environment for frail elderly demonstrate the importance that a modern health service puts in sound and up to date premises. Those of us who work behind the scenes in less comfortable surroundings look forward to seeing the benefits of modern investment trickle down.

But human infrastructure is of course as important. Our Human Resources department wishes to 'attract and retain the best people based on our shared values' and has a philosophy that mirrors the Trust's own mission statement and is simply put: 'The employee is at the centre of everything we do'.

In that respect the article in this issue on foundation doctors is a challenge. Our optimism that our local medical school would provide local doctors has evaporated as graduates discover they can compete successfully for jobs all over the country. A pleasant façade may attract patients and staff, but the challenges of retaining the staff are more complex.

This issue celebrates the innovation that has enabled staff to navigate their way to job satisfaction. It also quietly celebrates the dedication of a team of professionals in the Works Department who, without any fuss rose to the challenge of keeping the life support systems going for 5 days when the national grid failed this winter.

Andrew Severn