

Thursday the 25th of May 2017

Today I'm up super early for me at 5.00am! I'm off with my partner and carer to Birmingham for a NHS finance and business skills training day for governors'. Being super early to the train station paid off as our scheduled train was cancelled so we jumped on an earlier one, which gave us chance to have a walk around Birmingham city centre beforehand and have a well-deserved morning coffee!



Roll forward to 9.30am and we caught up with fellow governor and other governors from trusts over the country before starting the course with some icebreakers about NHS in general to get us all talking.

The morning was spent looking at the current financial climate, income and funding of the NHS. It was quite complex (I think I would have been surprised if it wasn't!) but I found it really interesting to see how trusts work financially.

After Lunch we moved on to how to regulate finance, explaining things such as expenditure and how trusts can be the best they can under the current financial climate, for example by working with clinical commissioners.

We then looked at the key documents that trusts publish and financial statements and how as governors to seek assurance and to hold the non-executive directors (N.E.Ds) in our trusts to account as this is our main role, so we have to make sure that we are doing it adequately. We looked at some real case studies which were really informative. As to how different trusts have different approaches and how we can learn from this and develop in our own presentation and holding to account the N.E.Ds in the council of governors to achieve best practice.



The whole day was really well organised and the program trainers were really accommodating to me and my partner which made me feel a lot more at ease as I was the only service user governor there. Overall, the day was really interesting and learned a lot which I hope will benefit me in my role as a service user governor. I even got a certificate at the end!