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Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

CS/PW

4 July 2022

Jack Sargent MS
Chair of the Senedd Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Dear Mr Sargent

Petition P-06-1240 Improve health services for people with epilepsy living in Wales

Thank you for your letter dated 7th June 2022 enquiring about the services and resources that are in place to meet the needs of people with epilepsy living in Powys, and if there are any gaps in services and resources at present.

Within Powys, our primary care services for example, general practice, are well placed to undertake routine monitoring of patients with epilepsy. For patients whose condition deteriorates to such an extent that emergency treatment is necessary, patients can access emergency care services via their local District General Hospital (DGH) in either Wales or England, depending on where they live. In terms of speciality secondary care services, including diagnostics and neurological services, if patients require specialist intervention, again these are typically provided at a local DGH. However, these services maybe further afield if services have been centralised as part of a recognised clinical network of specialist centre.

With regards to Children and Young people, the health board does not directly deliver specialist epilepsy services. Children and Young people are referred to a DGH for commissioned specialist services as required. Our health and care strategy 'A Healthy, Caring Powys' sets out our ambition to provide care closer to home, and where this is not possible due to the pathway of care, we do our utmost to support this principle in partnership

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with other health boards and Trusts. Our community paediatricians within the health board will liaise with their secondary care colleagues to support care for those children and young people who are known to the community paediatric service. Initial investigation and commencement of treatment will be undertaken by general paediatric, or neurology services commissioned from the DGHs bordering Powys.

In terms of nursing provision, the Epilepsy specialist nurse service is commissioned from the DGHs and as a health board, we identified that a link nurse would improve service provision for Children and Young People in Powys. There is currently a review to scope the requirement for establishing a role. The link nurse role enhances the current epilepsy service provided by the district general hospitals but does not replace the skill and expertise of the epilepsy clinical nurse specialist who remains responsible for prescribing care and supporting training.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Shillabeer".

Carol Shillabeer
Chief Executive