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Mel Evans, Chairman

Cadeirydd

Andrew Cottom, Chief Executive

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GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Addysgu Powys  
Powys Teaching  
Health Board

Our ref: AC/BW/NT

30<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Mr William Powell AC/AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2014 in respect of the petition the Committee have received with regard to Bronllys Community Hospital.

As you will be aware, formal consultation on service change in the NHS is governed by guidance issued by Welsh Government in March 2011 titled 'Guidance for Engagement and Consultation on Changes to Health Services'. The tHB is committed to close engagement and consultation with local communities on service change in line with guidance.

The Health Board has been utilising this guidance to both engage the residents of South East Powys on plans for services in the area, and to specifically and formally consult on the future of stroke rehabilitation services.

You will also be aware of the linked engagement that the Health Board undertook in early 2011 in respect of the Bronllys Hospital site, and its future, that was facilitated by the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. These events culminated in a Local Development Plan submission for the site as a candidate site, and this application is still going through the LDP process.

A number of engagement events have been held with stakeholders in the area since late 2009, and in addition open engagement meetings have been held to discuss the the tHBs Vision for Services in South East Powys.

This has been followed by the Health Board issuing its formal Consultation Document 'New Directions, Improving Healthcare Services for South East Powys' in September 2012, in line with the guidance. The consultation process was delivered as a joint exercise with the Brecon and Radnorshire Community Health Council, also in line with the guidance. The tHB has held public meetings in each of the affected communities, placed material in local newspapers and made the consultation information available on our website.

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg  
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithred Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol  
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh  
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of  
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

We have also used twitter and facebook to promote the consultation. I have also personally spoken to a number of local groups including the Bronllys Hospital Friends. The public have also been encouraged to provide their views through a questionnaire

The CHC agreed to an extension of the consultation period following a request from community representatives and this was accommodated with our support. A further drop-in session was held during this extended period to hear people's views. The Health Board is anticipating a formal response from the Community Health Council to our proposals and the tHB will be considering the issues that have been raised with us as a consequence of the consultation, including the petition that has been copied to us, at its 20 February Board meeting when the final decision on the proposals will be made.

You will be aware that, under the guidance, if the tHB and Community Health Council are not able to agree a way forward, and the tHB wishes to proceed with its proposed changes then the CHC is able to refer the matter to Welsh Ministers for consideration.

I am not therefore in a position to state the Health Board's full position in respect of the petition until such time as the proscribed process has been completed. I would appreciate it if the Petitions Committee were able to take this into account at this stage as I cannot pre-empt the outcome of the consultation process, the CHC response or the Board's position.

I can, however, at this stage make the following observations in respect of the petition that you have received that may assist in your consideration of it.

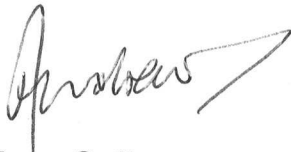
The tHB's specific proposal is our preferred option to transfer the stroke rehabilitation service from Bronllys Hospital to Brecon Hospital. We wish to do this as it will provide improved outcomes and an improved environment for people who have experienced a stroke. This proposal has been presented in the context of our broader plans to provide more NHS care in Powys for Powys residents to reduce the requirements for out of county travel.

The consultation document also describes a health system that currently involves two hospitals in close proximity i.e. Bronllys and Brecon Hospitals, and a wide range of community services that are not dependent on either hospital for their delivery. All of these services serve the same local population. Bronllys also provides an important administrative centre for the Health Board for the whole of Powys. There is a need to provide a balance of services locally across the area, and we have a stated direction of travel to provide more care in Powys, something we are incrementally achieving through investment in local services. It is a requirement that we use all of our assets to the benefit of patients, and this may involve moving services between sites. Whilst this may be perceived as 'asset stripping' a specific site by the community I would suggest this is taken on balance with the investment in services we have also made across the area.

Lastly, as I indicated above Powys tHB has, for some time, been engaged in the Local Development Plan process in respect of an application submitted to Powys County Council for the Bronllys site. The Bronllys site is a large site, originally built as a Tuberculosis hospital that served a large geographical area. Consequently the site is far larger than will be required for future local NHS use. Our LDP submission, which followed extensive community engagement with the Talgarth and Bronllys communities seeks to provide for a mixed future use of this extensive site, including the opportunity to re-provide facilities for the delivery of health and social care services. This application remains extant and the tHB remains committed to pursuing this future for the site. The outcome of the formal consultation will be an important source of information and local views in taking forward these plans.

I have enclosed a copy of the consultation document for your Committee's reference and I and my officers would be more than happy to be invited to Committee if this is required and appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Cottom', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Andrew Cottom**  
**Chief Executive**

Cc Minister for Health & Social Services  
Mark Drakeford AM, Chair of Health & Social Care Committee

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