

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-534
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William Powell AM

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Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 17 March, following the petition from Cardigan Hospital Community League of Friends, regarding the future of Cardigan Hospital and health care in the area.

This is essentially a local matter that is being taken forward by Hywel Dda University Health Board as part of the strategic plans for delivering safe and sustainable services as set out in the consultation document "Your Health, Your Future". Under the plans, the Health Board is to put in place a new delivery model for care in Cardigan that involves a new integrated care centre whilst alternative beds would be provided through a range of existing facilities, including Tregaron Hospital and local nursing and residential care homes. This will ensure that no beds will be lost to the County.

A key feature of these proposals is the new integrated care centre. I have received assurances that the outline business case will be submitted in July 2014, and subject to my approval, will allow for a start on the new development next year.

The Health Board are to convene a programme of engagement events over the coming months to give local people the opportunity to view the plans and to discuss the community model with the University Health Board.

I recently made a statement setting out the outline terms of reference for a study of the issues and opportunities for providing accessible, high quality, safe and sustainable health services which are best suited to the specific needs of people living in Mid Wales. The Welsh Institute of Health and Social Care has been appointed to undertake the study and ensure its independence.

The study will include the full range of health services and consider the whole Mid Wales area, including issues of providing services across Health Board boundaries and across the border with England. Opportunities for utilising innovative technologies such as telemedicine will also be within the scope. There will be an opportunity to feed into the study, and I will pass your letter to the study team to ensure that contact is made.

When the study is complete, we will expect Hywel Dda, Powys and Betsi Cadwaladr Health Boards, which are responsible for meeting the health needs of people living in Mid Wales, to respond to its findings through the refresh of Medium Term Plans undertaken by all Health Boards in the Autumn.

I hope you find this helpful.

Best wishes
Mark

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