

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dr Mark Drakeford AM
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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Dear Mark,

At the Health and Social Care Committee on 4th July the future range of services to be provided at Neath Port Talbot Hospital was discussed. I agreed to provide the Committee with examples of District General Hospitals which did not provide acute medical admissions.

I should, however, firstly provide some context. The notion of the "District General Hospital" became established in the Hospital Plan for England and Wales published by Enoch Powell in 1962. They were to exist alongside major teaching hospitals and community hospitals and provide a range of consultant led services. Over the subsequent 50 years there have been many changes across the NHS in general and the hospital sector in particular.

In responding to the specific question, I believe it is important to highlight the fact there has never been a definitive schedule of services which will be provided by a "District General Hospital". The following list is therefore of hospitals which are not specialist or community hospitals and do not provide a 24 hour acute medical intake. It is illustrative and not at all exhaustive.

- Ashford Hospital, West London
- Broad Green Hospital, Liverpool
- Gartnavel General, Glasgow
- Queen Mary Hospital, Sidcup
- Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood
- Southmead Hospital, Bristol

The number of such hospitals will increase. The recently published plans for reconfiguration in North West London, for example, involve a potential reduction in the hospitals providing acute medical services from eight to five.

In Worcestershire, the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust is engaging and consulting on its clinical strategy for its three District General Hospitals. All the options presented involve at least one site no longer providing acute services, including acute medicine.

I also agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the independent assessment of the public engagement exercise carried out by Hywel Dda Health Board, as part of its reconfiguration plans. A copy is enclosed.

I trust the above is clear and helpful.

Kind Regards
Lesley

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Please find attached link to the Hywel Dda Health Board 'Your Health, Your Future' ORS report of findings - July 2012 (148 pages) (6MB)

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/61505>