



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1350
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01476/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

petitions@senedd.wales

26 June 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 25 May on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the decision taken by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to close temporarily the Dyfi inpatient ward at Tywyn Hospital.

The health board took the decision to close the ward due to the significant ongoing staffing challenges being experienced at both Tywyn and Dolgellau hospitals, which were impacting on its ability to maintain safe staffing levels across the two sites.

In order to ensure those needing inpatient hospital care can continue to receive the care they need in a safe clinical environment, the decision was taken to temporarily close the inpatient ward at Tywyn Hospital, and staffing and resources were consolidated at Dolgellau Hospital to enable the health board to maintain patient and staff safety at this time.

The health board continues to pursue all possible avenues to recruit into the positions required to enable it to safely run inpatient services at both sites. In the meantime, some staff have been redeployed temporarily to other service areas which has enabled some new service developments to be put in place to support care closer to home and increase service capacity locally. Other staff have supported the development of a Treatment Room service at Tywyn Hospital, which [opened](#) earlier this month and offers all types of wound care, ranging from basic dressing changes, leg ulcers to compression bandaging, and will evolve over time to offer many more treatments.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

While I can appreciate this is concerning for staff and the local community, this is an operational matter for the health board, and one in which Welsh Ministers cannot intervene.

The health board has assured me it is working with its partners on an innovative new model of service for Tywyn, which will draw on staff currently working in the community as well as staff who will be based at the hospital, all with the shared aim to restore the service that has been temporarily withdrawn at the hospital.

I attended a meeting with representatives from the health board, Tywyn Hospital Action Group and Tywyn Town Council on 12 May, at which all members were provided the opportunity to express any concerns and hear directly from the health board about its plans for the hospital.

I have also been assured by the health board that engagement has taken place with the new Citizen Voice Body, Llais, and that regular meetings are taking place with local councillors where progress around recruitment and service developments and opportunities are shared and discussed.

The health board continues to keep these arrangements under regular review and will continue in its efforts to recruit to vacancies so that inpatient services at Tywyn Hospital may be restored safely as soon as possible. The timescale for re-opening the inpatient ward at Tywyn Hospital will also remain under review and will be updated to reflect progress of the recruitment process.

I hope this information is helpful in your consideration of the petition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services