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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

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

Ein cyf / Our ref: GL/SB/10332/635

Eich cyf / Your ref:

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Dyddiad / Date: 19 August 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for correspondence dated 21 March 2013 to Mrs Mary Burrows concerning a petition received from Mike Parry with 306 signatures.

Firstly, may I apologise that a response was not sent earlier by the Health Board. A reply had been drafted but it appears may not have been forwarded to you. We regret that this has delayed your consideration of the matters raised by the petition.

The petition focuses on proposals for change to services at Bryn Beryl Community Hospital, Pwllheli, which were subject to formal consultation as part of Healthcare in North Wales is Changing. The consultation period closed formally on 28 October 2012; however, we also took account of any responses received during the week following 28 October in order to ensure that any responses held up by postal or other issues were included.

The petition mirrors an electronic petition of which we were made aware during the consultation process. This was taken into account as part of the overall consultation feedback as confirmed in the Board report for the meeting held on 18 January 2013 which acknowledges receipt of:

“An e-petition set up by community leaders from the Pwllheli area and urging the Welsh Government “to ensure that proposals... [do] not result in poorer health provision and unnecessary deaths and suffering” had attracted 168 signatures by the beginning of November.”

There are a number of statements contained in the leaflet supporting the petition which might be challenged on grounds of accuracy or interpretation. However, at this stage, it does not feel appropriate to respond to each point. Further, the petition was submitted after both the consultation period and indeed the Board decision following analysis of the consultation feedback. It is important for us to note however that the Board was made very clearly aware of the strength of feeling of many in the local community regarding potential implications for Bryn Beryl, including those expressed through the petition.



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The changes proposed at Bryn Beryl Hospital related to three areas:

- Proposal to close the X-ray service in order to consolidate X-ray services at designated hospital hubs, which for the Pwllheli area would mean service provision at Ysbyty Alltwen, Porthmadog (around 13 miles or just under half an hour travelling time)
- Proposal to amend the Minor Injury Unit hours from 8.00 am to midnight, 5 days a week, to 7 days per week 10.00 am – 6.00 pm (April- September) and 5 days per week (October – March) to reflect demand better
- Proposal to confirm the permanent closure of 6 inpatient beds for older people with mental health needs, which had been closed on a temporary basis for 2 years, and provide more community support

Careful consideration was given to the comments received about the proposed changes before the Board reached its decision. Many of these related to travel time and distances, particularly for residents on the Llŷn Peninsula.

However, we also need to ensure services are delivered efficiently, reducing waste and duplication, and making best use of funds.

After careful consideration of all the evidence and feedback the Board agreed to retain an X-ray service at Bryn Beryl, operating for 2 half-day sessions a week rather than 3 half-day sessions, to reflect demand and service efficiency.

The proposals for minor injuries unit and for older people's mental health services were confirmed by the Board. You will be aware from other recent correspondence that the Board has recently reached a local resolution on these matters with the Community Health Council, subject to ongoing review of the effectiveness of the services and implementation of alternative community services for older people with mental health needs.

I hope that this helps clarify the consideration that has been given to local community views such as those expressed in the petition. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Lang'.

GEOFF LANG
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE