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Bwrdd Iechyd
Hywel Dda
Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref: TP/elc
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Trevor Purt, Chief Executive
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13th December 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

Your reference P-04-367/394/430/431/455

Firstly, I most sincerely apologise for our lack of response to your original letter. I would like to reassure you that we have a clear process in place for ensuring correspondence is managed and I am happy to share that with you if you would wish. On this occasion it would seem that whilst my office believed a response had been sent, through human error on this occasion it appears not to have been the case. I would assure you that letters from Senedd Committees such as yours are treated as the highest of priorities and can again only apologise in this instance.

The CHC referred the potential closure of Tenby and South Pems MIUs to the Minister in accordance with the guidance and the Health Board had taken into consideration an earlier petition from Tenby residents in advance of the decision to close the Unit taken on 15 January 2013.

The Minister directed that the issue be resolved locally and the Health Board undertook this through an Implementation Board, chaired by an Independent Member, which has the CHC in attendance as associate members (and which has delegated authority for approval of consultation specific service change).

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Cadeirydd / Chairman
Mr Chris Martin
Prif Weithredwr /Chief Executive
Yr Athro/Professor Trevor Purt

At the time of the original letter to the Health Board, we were in the middle of this process and it is unfortunate this was not relayed at the time to the Petitions Committee. However, the final decision was taken to close the Unit after close scrutiny of a local gateway mechanism to provide assurance that the requirements of the Board's decision (made on 15 January 2013) had been met.

In making the decision the Implementation Board carefully considered the issues raised by the and the local needs of the population. These included:

- GP access – an undertaking was given to continue discussions with local GPs on their intentions around the provision of treatment room services and access; the outcome of these discussions was that the local practices would continue to provide treatment room services for their registered lists.
- The provision of a service over the summer period to manage the influx of tourists – following a successful pilot service we had commissioned for summer 2013, we agreed to review the requirement for 2014 and future years between February and March next year and to engage, GPs and the CHC in the process.
- Equality impact - the impact assessment showed that there were low numbers of patients presenting at the MIU and a breakdown of the cases showed that the vast majority would be more appropriate for treatment by a GP or self-care.
- Transport – our evidence showed that the vast majority of those presenting at the MIU had their own transport and that with the majority of those presenting having minor injuries that would be more appropriate for treatment by a local GP or by self-care. The impact therefore was minimal and the Health Board was clear that it does not provide transport for minor injuries services.

It is worth noting that the closure of the MIU needs to be kept in context. Registered patients in the Tenby area will have the same access through the winter to health services as the great majority of the population in the 3 counties of Hywel Dda. This includes access to local GP's (through the treatment room LES), community pharmacies, self care, community based service and emergency care at the district general hospitals. There will also be an enhanced level of service commissioned for the summer which is unique to the Tenby area. Also, the ENPs from the MIU can be redeployed to support A&E services in Withybush over winter which will have a significantly positive



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impact on the wider Pembrokeshire population.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Purt'.

Trevor Purt
Chief Executive

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