

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
**Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**  
**Minister for Health and Social Services**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00142/20

Dai Lloyd AM  
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

3 March 2020

Dear Dai,

I am writing to provide you with an update on Brynawel Residential Rehabilitation Centre in Llanharan.

The long term sustainability of Brynawel has been subject to previous correspondence within which the Welsh Government has reassured both Brynawel and Assembly Members that we remain keen to support a sustainable residential treatment sector but reiterated that we must do that within the context of tight financial resources across public services and in an appropriate, fair and consistent way which also meets the needs of service users.

A new Chief Executive was appointed last summer following the retirement of David Richards. Carol Daly, who has taken on this role has extensive experience in multi-agency approaches and integrated service delivery, my officials met with her shortly after she came into post to offer support. In the time Carol has been in post she has implemented significant changes following her initial assessment of the key changes required to maintain the long term sustainability of the centre.

Some of the changes made include increasing support coverage for residents across a 24 hour period. In line with this change five new support workers have been employed to increase staff capacity at the centre. In addition to these changes local recruitment opportunities have also been identified and in order to attract people who have an interest in working in the area of addiction Brynawel intend to hold an open day in March for volunteers.

During this time of significant change Welsh Government officials have maintained an open dialogue with and met with the Chief Executive on a number of occasions to discuss the long term sustainability and future direction of the centre, the most recent meeting in mid-January. Officials have ensured that Area Planning Boards are aware of these changes and in addition are working with officials leading on both homelessness and health provision in the prison setting. These internal discussions have supported Brynawel to develop relationships with other sectors and develop new pathways into the centre for some of the most vulnerable people.

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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.

As part of these discussions I am happy to say that the present occupation at Brynawel is at full capacity (twenty beds), with all but four from Wales. As a result of this significant improvement from a situation where Brynawel was under 50% occupied there is a waiting list for Brynawel until the end of March. Not only is this in terms of the more general residential rehabilitation services provided at the centre but longer term placements for the specialist alcohol related brain damage (ARBD) treatment as well as people entering directly from prison and homelessness services.

In addition, financial support from Cwm Taf Area Planning Board for a new fibre line and an upgrade to IT systems has also been provided. Brynawel will move to a web based electronic case management system, replacing paper files which are currently in use to ensure enhanced case management approach and compliance with GDPR. The new IT upgrade will further improve the sustainability of Brynawel in so much as it will allow greater outcome monitoring and reporting which will be publicised regularly on their website and to commissioners.

Finally, residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification play an important role in helping substance misuse service users, where this process has been identified as essential in securing their long term recovery. Welsh Government officials have recently completed a procurement exercise for a revised Substance Misuse Residential Rehabilitation Framework and this contract will shortly be awarded.

Welsh Government officials will continue regular communication with the Chief Executive at Brynawel to maintain the early momentum Carol has introduced as part of her role as the Chief Executive.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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