

AGENDA ITEM NO.

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Special Meeting of the County council
Date	23.10.12
Subject	Consultation on Health Care in North Wales
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr. Kenneth Hughes
Lead Officer(s)	Gwen Carrington, Corporate Director of Community
Contact Officer	Mr Gareth Llwyd – Principal Planning Officer, Community Department
Nature and reason for reporting	
Present the response of the County Council to the consultation period by the Betsi cadwaladr University Health Board on Health Care in North Wales.	

A – Introduction / Background / Issues

The consultation period comes to an end on 28.10.12.

We present for approval the response of the County Council to the consultation document, Health Care in North Wales.

B – Considerations

C - Summary

CH - Recommendation

Approve and authorise the Chief Executive to submit the County council's response to the consultation period by 28.10.12.

Name of author of report – Gareth Llwyd
Job Title – Principal Planning Officer,
Community Department
Date 19.10.12

Appendices:

- The Response of the Isle of Anglesey County Council to the Consultation Period on 'Health Care in North Wales 2012'.

Background papers

- Consultation Document 'Health Care in North Wales is Changing by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

The Response of the Isle of Anglesey County Council to the Consultation Period on 'Health Care in North Wales 2012'.

1. Introduction

We appreciate this opportunity to present our response to the Consultation Document and its implications for the population in a rural and bilingual area such as Anglesey in the North West. In our opinion, it is vitally important that the opinions of the public, key stakeholders and representatives of various groups in the population are given detailed and careful consideration when planning and re-modelling health services across the North, particularly services in more rural areas.

Whilst we accept and welcome the aim of improving the provision of a vast range of health services which improve the health of the population in general across North Wales, it is very important that the services respect public values such as

- To be treated with respect and dignity in all service locations
- To receive timely information which enable them to make informed choices
- To receive timely access, without delay and confusion, to accessible services at the right time when they are vulnerable
- Services should be provided close to where people live when it is safe and appropriate to do so
- Specialist services should be accessible and available in hospitals which are within easy reach of everybody in the population whatever their needs
- Services should be accessible to everybody regardless of their language of choice and people's rights to express their needs and their choices in their preferred language should be respected in line with the requirements in '**More Than Just Words**' – the Welsh Government's Strategic Framework for Welsh Language Services in Health, Social Services and Social Care.

2. Accessible Services for All

We welcome the statement acknowledging that it is important to ensure that families, service users and their carers can express their needs in their preferred language. However, there is still some way to go to achieve this aim in areas where Welsh is the principal language of families and service users in line with the requirements in the Welsh Government's Strategic Framework, '**More Than Just Words**'. Unfortunately, a number of Welsh speakers in the most vulnerable groups in society have problems and are unable to receive services in their mother tongue. This is particularly true of elderly and vulnerable people suffering with dementia and vulnerable adults who have learning difficulties and/or mental health problems. The language requirements need to be strengthened when appointing front line staff in a number of services in order to ensure that services are accessible and of a high quality which respect the linguistic needs of the population.

We welcome the intention and the proposals to move services to the community and to increase expenditure on community health services in order to provide accessible services closer to where people live.

3. Public Health Challenges

We agree that there is a need for all agencies and key stakeholders to work together in order to address Public Health needs and priorities such as prevention of smoking and alcohol and drug abuse and the need to promote healthy eating and to increase levels of physical activity in order to reduce illnesses and improve health and well-being generally. There is a need to ensure close co-operation in order to target campaigns in the most deprived areas of our communities.

There is an opportunity here to promote better collaboration between the Health Service and all services provided by Local Authorities such as Education, Leisure, Public Protection, Housing and Social Care in order to co-ordinate efforts to reduce the Health inequalities and to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of everybody in our society.

4. Acute Care Services

We are of the opinion that it is vitally important to ensure that key health care services are available within reach of the population in Ysbyty Gwynedd. Careful consideration must be given to how people can access key health care services when required particularly when they live in remote rural areas on the Northern side of Anglesey. We welcome the intention to move services closer to the people in order to reduce travelling difficulties for patients, service users and their families. In relation to the proposed centralization of long term specialist neo-natal services in Arrowe Park Hospital on the Wirral, we agree with public opinion that there is a need to provide accommodation for parents on site to facilitate access and to reduce the need to travel backwards and forwards.

There is a need to further address collaboration between Local Authorities and transport providers in order to ensure that affordable transport is available to facilitate access to health care services in the rural areas where problems are currently experienced. Although there is a need to centralise some specialist services in one of three general hospitals, consideration will have to be given to the transport requirements of some service users in accessing the services and how convenient it is for the family/ carers to visit patients and provide support. The needs of those receiving daily cancer treatment in Glan Clwyd Hospital should also be considered along with the practicalities of travelling to that centre to receive treatment.

5. Primary Care and Community Health Care

Consideration should also be given to the need to provide primary care services and integrated 24/7 responsive community care which reduces the need for unnecessary admissions to Ysbyty Gwynedd particularly in the case of vulnerable older adults. It must be ensured that GPs and Out of Hours services can provide health care services which support people in their homes with appropriate assistance for as long as possible in order to reduce the pressure on secondary care services in Ysbyty Gwynedd and in order to reduce the disruption for elderly and vulnerable people. Local plans providing more integrated enhanced care services should be developed in order to provide a timely response to the monitoring of medical conditions and ensuring that people can stay in their own homes. More attention needs to be given to the development of tele-health services in order to maximise the opportunities available through the provision of appropriate monitoring equipment. Plans should also be developed to help people understand their health problems better and to look after themselves in order to reduce illness.

Local collaboration which is developing through the local area groups led by GPs should be built upon in order to ensure better co-ordination and the provision of more integrated services in the community which support and sustain people in their own homes for as long as is possible. There will also be a need to develop community services which can be provided through surgeries, pharmacies, dental surgeries and optometry services. We support efforts to target early intervention services and preventative campaigns to priority groups within the population in order to improve health and reduce illnesses.

There is a need for greater clarity on the leadership role of the Locality development groups in developing and implementing the programme of remodelling Primary and Community Health Services in line with the agenda for change outlined in the consultation document.

There is a need to strengthen services such as:

- Services provided by health visitors and school nurses to support children and families
- More integrated services to support children with disabilities and long term health conditions and their families
- Community mental health services to promote mental health and welfare and to support people at home in their communities
- Joint initiatives with Leisure and Social Services and voluntary organisations which reduce the number of falls amongst older people
- Educational programmes to help people who are living with long term health conditions to understand and manage their symptoms better in order to keep healthy
- The use of tele-health equipment to monitor health conditions and to reduce the need to travel to Health Centres

- Closer collaboration with Social Services in order to identify and support carers in their role of caring for children, relatives and friends in the community

6. Cefni Hospital and Penrhos Stanley Hospital (Community Hospital Hubs)

We are very fortunate in Anglesey that we have two community hospitals in modern buildings which offer fantastic opportunities for developing local centres which provide step up and step down beds to meet needs in relation to recovery and rehabilitation and respite care.

They also provide opportunities for developing a range of treatment services and health care services in the local community in order to address the aim of moving secondary services out into the community and closer to the people.

The services provided in these two community hospitals are greatly appreciated by the population of Anglesey and Arfon and further afield. Advantage should be taken of this opportunity to develop and to expand the services offered in Cefni Hospital and Penrhos Stanley Hospital in order to ensure

- A sufficient supply of beds for recovery and rehabilitation as patients step down from Ysbyty Gwynedd or other acute units
- A sufficient supply of beds for dementia care in Cefni Hospital to meet the increasing demand within the ageing population
- The Minor Injury and X Ray Services in Penrhos Stanley Hospital in order to reduce the pressure on the Emergency Unit in Ysbyty Gwynedd
- Services for Outpatients
- Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and other therapy services

7. Mental Health - Older People

We welcome the intention to strengthen community services to support people with dementia and their carers in Gwynedd and Anglesey particularly as the needs in relation to dementia are increasing amongst the ageing population. There will be a need to ensure a sufficient supply of beds offering care in hospital for people with dementia including early diagnosis and Memory clinic services. We also welcome the intention to strengthen the services provided by the Community Mental Health Teams in order to provide extended support for dementia care in residential homes.

We are concerned regarding the proposal to reduce the number of beds in Cefni Hospital over a period of time although moving dementia beds back to Ysbyty Gwynedd would release the building so that primary care and community care services could be moved to Anglesey and strengthened. The investment in the Cefni Hospital building over the years offers great opportunities for the integration and collocation of health and social care services and moving services closer to the homes of people in the community.

There is a need to maximise the resources available in order to integrate and co-locate health services and Social care in areas such as:

- The care of the elderly, particularly people with dementia
- Services to Protect children who are vulnerable or in need
- Children with disabilities and long term health conditions
- Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Adults with Physical Disabilities

Further considerations:

- i. There is a need to consider how to plan for the availability of staff and also the implications in relation to maintaining the local hospital if it is intended to reduce the number of beds.
- ii. There is a need to further consider the support which is available to carers if there will be fewer beds in Cefni Hospital along with the costs of care in the community

There is also an opportunity to encourage better collaboration with the Education Department in order to promote the exercise by invitation services and the assessment and prevention of falls services. Advantage should also be taken of the opportunities to provide information services and preventative services in collaboration with the 3rd Sector particularly through the Age Well Centres which have been developed on Anglesey.

8. Comments and general questions

During discussions with officers and elected members, the following questions were asked in response to this consultation:

- i. What specific plans have been developed in the communities in order to strengthen the provision for dementia care within the community?
- ii. How will these plans be funded and provided?
- iii. What are the implications of these plans for users and carers particularly in relation to practical issues such as travelling/respice care?
- iv. Where are the detailed plans in relation to the re profiling of services in the context of Anglesey?
- v. What assurance do these plans provide in relation to providing an equitable and stable service for the citizens of Anglesey compared to other areas in North Wales where specialist services are being centralised?
- vi. What are the implications for the workforce and the nature of the jobs in the Health Service?