

**Cyd-bwyllgor Canolbarth Cymru ar gyfer Iechyd a Gofal /  
Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care**

**LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE AND RESPONSES PROVIDED**

REF	QUESTION	RESPONSE
0920(1)	<p><b>Cllr. Mark Strong, Ceredigion County Council and Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group</b> How far do people need/have to travel to get a Covid test. I have heard that many travel long distances to Wales from England for a test.</p>	<p><b>Alison Shakeshaft, Director of Therapies and Health Sciences, Hywel Dda UHB</b> Hywel Dda University Health Board has 5 community testing sites that operate from Haverfordwest, Cardigan, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen and Llanelli. These sites are run by Health Board staff to provide testing for Key workers, children and to facilitate procedures and operations.</p> <p>Public testing is provided at UK Government Department of Health and Social Care testing sites located in Haverfordwest, Carmarthen and Aberystwyth. These tests can only be booked through the UK on-line booking portal <a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test">https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</a> or by telephoning 119. The number of tests available is managed through the Portal and is dependent on the demand for tests on any particular day which may impact on a test being unavailable at the nearest test site.</p> <p>We are aware of the difficulties members of the public are having with accessing tests. Current pressures in the UK system are causing issues with the capacity across the country and this is increasing the travel distances being reported to access testing. Welsh Government is in discussion with the Department of Health and Social Care to resolve these issues. The Health Board is also doing all that it can with partner agencies to support resolution of booking issues.</p>

REF	QUESTION	RESPONSE
0920(2)	<p><b>Cllr. Keith Evans, Ceredigion County Council and Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group</b></p> <p>The residents of Llandysul and the district are concerned about the lack of out of core services available in the area especially bearing in mind that we have lost one GP surgery in the town. Is there an intention to bring service back to what it was a year or so ago.</p> <p><b>Note: Question received and responded to in Welsh</b></p>	<p><b>Nick Davies, Service Delivery Manager - Out of Hours and 11, Hywel Dda UHB</b></p> <p>The Out of Hours service has seen significant variation in the level of clinical cover that has been available in recent times. As a result of and in response to complaints being raised in relation to potential risks to staff and patients, the Executive Team decided to temporarily alter overnight service provision at Llanelli and Llandysul bases in the Spring of 2020.</p> <p>In relation to Llandysul, this was based on the high frequency of closures seen at Llandysul base as a result of a lack of clinical cover to maintain safe levels of service - and the risk this presented to patients who found themselves "walk in" to a non-operational base without prior triage or direction.</p> <p>Since reducing the bases, the overnight rota position in Carmarthen has significantly improved and this means there is more resilience available to respond to patient need in the Llandysul area. Two key factors need to be noted- 1. overnight demand at the Llandysul base is exceptionally low and 2. there is no increase in the availability of clinical staff who are able to support overnight cover at Llandysul - the additional resilience now delivered in Carmarthen is predominantly an increase in Carmarthen GPs who are able to provide more continuous access. In line with this, the messaging has been clear and the local population in South Ceredigion no longer has to deal with variation and unpredictability in Out of Hours (OOH) provision.</p> <p>Please also note that all efforts are made to secure staffing cover for the evenings over 7 days as well as daytime hours on Saturday and Sundays plus bank holidays. These coincide with the peaks in demand that are seen, meaning access to the population is maximised - without being strained by a need to support overnight cover in addition.</p> <p>In terms of whether Llandysul cover can be increased, this would be a real challenge at this time due to continued shortfalls in staffing levels within the service and the fact there is no additional / spare resource available to support any enhanced cover (such as reopening Llandysul base) - and certainly not to the detriment of more pressurised hours where demand is greater.</p>

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		<p>However, the service would like to understand the impact on service change - which will have been mitigated by the covid-19 pandemic and the way that GPs now undertake consultations in the acute overnight/weekend period. To this end, the service is liaising with the engagement team to identify a way to capture data that will be considered when a review into the temporary closure is made. Furthermore, in line with the "Healthy Mid and West Wales" strategy, the transformation programme office has been supporting the service with the need to redesign and modernise to future proof for the population. This work has been suspended to allow the teams to support covid-19 related planning and service delivery, but the working group will reconvene as soon as it is possible.</p>
0920(3)	<p><b>Cllr. Keith Evans, Ceredigion County Council and Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group</b>  The Health Board has confirmed their intention to locate a Hub under their future strategy for the residents of Llandysul and the district and also for Lampeter, these will follow the plans that have been / are being planned for Cardigan, Aberaeron, Aberystwyth and Tregaron, what's the latest on these plans.</p> <p><b>Note: Question received and responded to in Welsh</b></p>	<p><b>Peter Skitt, County Director Ceredigion and Programme Director for the MWJC</b>  The Coronavirus Pandemic has delayed the official introduction of a Hub in Llandysul, as the ground floor of the Teifi building has been designated as a covid-19 Positive Primary Care facility since the onset of the pandemic. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 the Health Board received formal confirmation that site may be re-purposed as a non-covid-19 building with the agreement that it could be re-purposed back to a covid-19 Positive Primary Care facility within 48 hours. Some patients will have received 'virtual' clinic appointments, whereas others would have attended clinics in on other sites. Work is already underway to prioritise the re-instatement of out-patient services in community settings; whilst adhering to Social Distancing and guidance to reduce risk of spreading Coronavirus; this will result in services being re-instated on a phased approach. Re-introduction of limited services safely in the Llandysul area is the first priority before we re-focus on developing a sustainable business case for a Hub in Llandysul.</p> <p>The proposed hub at Lampeter is on hold at the moment due to project timelines. The project will form part of the Ceredigion strategy going forward.</p>

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0920(4)	<p><b>Cllr. Keith Evans, Ceredigion County Council and Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group</b></p> <p>The Cylch Caron scheme seems to be standing still and slowly moving forward, what is the latest on the plan.</p> <p><b>Note: Question received and responded to in Welsh</b></p>	<p><b>Peter Skitt, County Director Ceredigion and Programme Director for the MWJC</b></p> <p>The Cylch Caron Project Board, which is now chaired by Peter Skitt, County Director Ceredigion, has continued to meet monthly during the covid pandemic. All partners have reaffirmed their commitment to making the scheme happen with agreement that all options should be explored to make the project happen. A public consultation exercise by postal questionnaire was undertaken between 20<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August to invite residents living in the Cylch Caron catchment area for their input and feedback on what they felt were their future needs for extra care housing. The draft consultation report was shared with the project board at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The Shared Resource Working Group and the Accommodation Working Group are exploring the available options for this development and will be reporting to the next meeting of the Cylch Caron Project Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.</p>
0920(5)	<p><b>Cllr. Keith Evans, Ceredigion County Council and Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group</b></p> <p>Why has the decision been made for the Board to receive questions prior to the meeting rather than the usual open questions session?</p>	<p><b>Professor Vivienne Harwood, Chair of Powys THB and Lead Chair for the MWJC</b></p> <p>Unfortunately we are unable on this occasion to transmit the Mid Wales Joint Committee meeting live and as such the meeting will be recorded and placed on the internet for people to view after the meeting has been held. As it has not been possible to livestream the meeting members of the public will not be able to view the meeting live and as such the Listening to You session has been amended to invite members of the public to submit their questions in advance of the meeting for which a written response will be provided to the questioner and details published on the Joint Committee's website. The Lead Chair will provide a brief to Joint Committee members on the questions received in advance and the responses provided.</p> <p>In addition to this a report detailing the work of the Mid Wales Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum will be included in the meeting papers which will include a log of all queries, questions and feedback received on a rolling basis through the Forum's Chairman, Mr Jack Evershed, together with any action taken or responses provided.</p>