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Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Date: 9 March 2015
Your Ref: P-01-440

Dear William,

Re: Bronllys Site

The Powys Health Board approach to the Bronllys site remains as stated by the Board when it considered the outcome of an Enquiry by Design process undertaken by the Princes Foundation for the Built Environment, funded by Welsh Assembly Government. This report resulted in a submission for the future mixed use utilisation of the site to the Powys Local Development Plan. That Plan is working through due Planning Processes.

In the long term the Bronllys site is clearly too large for future use by the NHS, and has an excess of buildings that are in poor condition and do not have a long term life. Since the EbD was completed the tHB has been preparing the site in line with the outcomes of the EbD through strategic investment in a small number of buildings, consolidation of staff and services in these buildings and emptying and disposal of buildings and property no longer required and peripheral to the main site, in line with NHS Estatecode requirements.

The tHB has met on a number of occasions with the Powys Health and Well-being Action Group and officers have received their proposals. The proposals are entirely in line with what the tHB set out in its Enquiry by Design report to the Board. We understand that the Action Group is not yet in a legal position to take forward the site in the way that it proposes. Both ourselves and Welsh Government officials have indicated that we will support the group to move in this direction in any way appropriate to our respective roles.

In respect of Point 2 of the petitioner's letter the tHB retains an interest in the site for both direct service provision and as a base for staff and do not foresee a

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

change to this position for some time, albeit the buildings in which services and staff are housed will need renewal.

In respect to Point 5, we would not support the implied criticism of the Health and Well-being Centre at Glan Irfon in Builth Wells. The Centre provides all the services provided in the previous community hospital and more, and though it is true that there was not inconsiderable scepticism from the local community, the facility has been well received within the community thus far. In terms of staffing the community hospital and district nursing team have been merged to provide nursing care in the community as a whole and the facility. The Committee should therefore note that the statement of the petitioner is factually incorrect.

In respect of point 6 the tHB has been unable to replace Dr Dunn. Medical recruitment to these kind of geographically isolated posts is challenging across the UK. As a consequence the tHB has taken an alternative approach through investment in primary care based medical cover, to strengthen the excellent skills that our GPs are able to provide in support of our community facilities. This is now successfully being delivered with no detriment to patient care, and indeed the tHB is seeing more and more people avoiding admission to out of county hospitals through this approach.

In respect of parking at Brecon Hospital, the tHB has delivered an action plan to address parking on the site and public transport access, although we accept this remains a challenge due to the space constraints on the site.

We are unable to comment on complaints made specifically to the Community Health Council.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol".

Carol Shillabeer.
Interim Chief Executive