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18th April 2017

FAO Kayleigh Driscoll
The Petitions Committee – Welsh Assembly
BY EMAIL ONLY
SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

Dear Kayleigh

Petition Reference: P-04 -564 / Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover & X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital

North Wales Community Health Council's Council's Gwynedd and Conwy Local Committees have previously offered their support for the concerns regarding the provision of healthcare in Blaenau Ffestiniog outlined in the above petition by the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital Defence Committee. On 13th March 2017 the Gwynedd Local Committee received a further update from the Defence Committee and they confirmed their continued support.

These concerns are similar in many aspects to the concerns being raised by HIW and the Older Persons' Commissioner and they accord with the findings of the CHC on recent visits – as well as concerns received by our complaints and advocacy service. I attach for your attention a range of correspondence with the Health Minister, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB and the Older Persons Commissioner.

You will note from this correspondence that there is a consistent concern from the CHC that BCUHB has failed to deliver the changes promised in the consultation "*Healthcare in North Wales is Changing*" in 2012. Whilst the construction of the Health Centre has recently commenced, Enhanced Care at Home has not delivered the promise replacement for the community hospital beds and the continuing issues with recruitment



Croesawir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg – Correspondence welcomed in Welsh or English
Cyngor Iechyd Cymuned Gogledd Cymru yw enw gweithredol Cyngor Iechyd Cymuned Betsi Cadwaladr
North Wales Community Health Council is the operational name of the Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council

are making it extremely difficult to replace GP Principals who left the local practice following the closure of the hospital. This has led to concerns about the continuity of care, particularly for older people. The solution of replacing GPs with specialist nurses raises its own problems, as these nurses are no easier to recruit.

The current situation means that step up and step down care is not provided in the community as was promised in 2012. Instead, local people travel large distances to access such care. For example Ffestiniog residents with a dementia diagnosis are often placed in Penrhos Stanley Hospital in Holyhead and there is now no local facility for end of life care.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.A. Ryall-Harvey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and 'A'.

Geoff Ryall-Harvey
Chief Officer – North Wales CHC