



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref: CH.2218.1218
Eich cyf/Your ref:
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Corporate Information Officer
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone: 01267 239892
Ffacs/Facsimile:
Dyddiad/Date: 9 January 2018

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building
Hafan Derwen, St Davids Park, Job's Well Road,
Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3BB

Mail to - SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

CC- Nesta.lloyd-jones@welshconfed.org

Dear David J Rowlands AC/AM

Re Petition P-05-826 Pembrokeshire says NO!! To the closure of Withybush A&E!

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2018.

I can confirm that there is no truth in the rumour that we plan to remove services from Withybush Hospital prior to a new planned and urgent care hospital being opened. At the same time, due to unprecedented pressures and service fragility our clinicians and managers will continue to make operational decisions and react to changing circumstances every day to ensure we can safely treat our patients. In this context absolute guarantees are very hard to make.

Given the timescales associated with the delivery of the Transforming Clinical Services programme, we are continuing to make considerable investments in Withybush Hospital, which will see improvements to the experience of patients using services at the hospital for many years to come. For example, we are investing £3 million in refurbishing wards 9 and 10. We have opened up an Ambulatory Care Unit; and have successfully recruited to key posts such as a cardiologist and Emergency Department consultant and an additional 1.8wte Advanced Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department, as well as introducing new roles such as three Physician Associates and a GP into the Emergency Department.

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth,
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job,
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building,
Hafan Derwen, St Davids Park, Job's Well Road,
Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3BB

Cadeirydd / Chair
Mrs Bernardine Rees OBE

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive
Mr Steve Moore

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Hywel Dda
Hywel Dda University Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda University Local Health Board

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda University Health Board operates a smoke free environment

In our health and care strategy, 'A Healthier Mid and West Wales: Our future generations living well' we state that we will need to carefully plan the transition to the new way of working, while making sure that we address the short term challenges we face around fragile services and workforce. This may mean that we have to make decisions, which in the short term divert us from our longer-term strategy, in order to sustain safe services, but any changes would be temporary in the interests of patient safety until we can realise our ambitions.

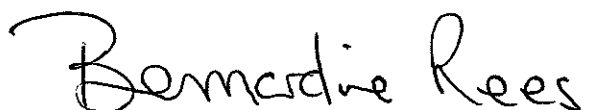
We will continue to talk to our staff and local people as we move forward with any service change. This includes working closely with the Community Health Council (CHC) to plan service change resulting from our strategy, ensuring we respond to the recommendations they made to us following our public consultation. The CHC has asked us to continue to engage and consult when necessary on service changes when we have designed the detail of how new services will run.

The Health Board has made a significant commitment to continuously engage with and communicate to the public. This would include any service changes in Pembrokeshire and through a programme of engagement events across our localities, will give opportunities for the public to understand and co-produce the following:

- capital projects, including the new acute care facility
- integrated health and social care and how it is delivered
- primary care developments
- service pathway improvements, and any service fragility issues which emerge in the intervening period.

As has long been our policy we will inform the public as soon as possible of any unforeseen emergency changes.

Yours sincerely

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

Bernardine Rees OBE
Chair