



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE - 20TH JUNE 2012

SUBJECT: ANEURIN BEVAN HEALTH BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST REPORT

REPORT BY: ANEURIN BEVAN HEALTH BOARD

1. SERVICES IN WALES COME 'TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH'

Health Minister Lesley Griffiths has launched Together for Mental Health, the Welsh Government's strategic approach to mental health and mental wellbeing.

Together for Mental Health sets out the Welsh Government's ambitions for improving mental health and our vision for 21st century mental health services. It updates current policy, incorporating the requirements of the groundbreaking *Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010*, acknowledges progress made to date and prioritises areas for continued improvement. This is the first mental health strategy for Wales that is inclusive of people of all ages. It reinforces the need to promote better mental wellbeing among the whole population and address the needs of people with mental health problems or a mental illness.

2. PATIENT FEEDBACK TO MEASURE QUALITY OF NHS IN FUTURE

Plans designed to ensure patients in Wales receive excellent quality care, wherever and whenever they need it, have been published by the Welsh Government.

Patient feedback will play a key role in the monitoring and improvement of healthcare services, with results published for all to see.

Achieving excellence - the Quality Delivery Plan for the NHS in Wales 2012-16 meets a key commitment outlined in "Together for Health", the Welsh Government's five year vision for the NHS in Wales.

3. WALES' NURSES GET A GLOWING REPORT AS STANDARDS OF CARE IMPROVE

A report published today shows high levels of satisfaction among adult hospital patients in Wales, with more than 95% saying they feel respected by nursing staff.

The third annual All Wales Fundamentals of Care Audit Summary Report brings together results from hospitals in Wales, all of which are now using the All Wales Fundamentals of Care Audit Tool.

4. FIVE WAYS TO WELL-BEING

Public Health Wales are launching a network which aims to help organisations promote and maintain the wellbeing of people in Gwent using the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Go to their website to find out more and see the excellent materials they have developed.

www.publichealthwales.wales.nhs.uk

£2 million scheme to help discharge older people out of hospital

A scheme to carry out minor but vital adaptations to older people's homes to prevent hospital admission or enable them to be discharged from hospital quicker has been awarded over £2m for the next financial year.

Rapid Response Adaptations Programme (RRAP) allows equipment such as ramps, handrails, safety alarms and door entry systems to be fitted in people's homes quickly so that their hospital discharges are not delayed and future admissions can be avoided. The scheme is administered and monitored by Care and Repair Cymru and delivered by Care and Repair agencies.

Online initiative helps public Choose Well for medical help

A new interactive online initiative is teaching web surfers to 'choose well' when it comes to medical help and advice. Visitors to the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and NHS Direct Wales websites can now take part in an online quiz based on the national Choose Well campaign structure.

Evidence reveals that a significant number of people dial 999 for an ambulance or go to A&E departments despite there being other more suitable services available to help their needs.

Choose Well centres on a colour coded thermometer to assist people in linking their symptoms or injury to the right service, which is right for their need.

Publication of Best configuration of hospital services for Wales: A Review of the evidence

An independent review of what clinical evidence says about hospital services in Wales, published today (Wednesday 9 May 2012), concludes that patients in Wales are not getting the best possible outcomes from their hospital care and there is a strong case for changing the way some hospital services are organised.

The report, by Professor Marcus Longley at the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care (WIHSC) at the University of Glamorgan, was commissioned by the NHS in Wales.

The research paper represents the first time that the existing clinical evidence has been brought together in one place to present the overall picture of the issues that are driving change across the NHS.

Some of the main findings of the report show that:

- The current configuration of hospital services does not deliver the best outcomes for patients uniformly across Wales;
- Service quality needs to be improved if Wales is to have services comparable with the best healthcare systems in the world;
- Unless action is taken quickly, the shortage of medical staff in some services is likely to lead to the unplanned closure, and possible collapse, of these services;
- The increasing specialisation of some types of services mean that centralising expert clinical staff leads to better patient outcomes in these specialties;
- The nature of healthcare means that many hospital services are interdependent and outcomes for patients could be improved if certain types of services are brought together onto one site;
- The impact of longer travelling distances as a result of centralisation can be lessened by boosting pre-hospital care, using telemedicine more widely and effectively, and providing better transport links.

5. INTEGRATED HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE RESOURCE CENTRE RHYMNEY

The construction phase of this exciting project commenced at the start of May progress has been very rapid and the site is taking shape. The Centre is due to be completed late Spring of 2013. Over the coming year partner organisations will be engaging in comprehensive communications programme to help configure existing and new services for the population of the upper Rhymney Valley.

6. YSBYTY YSTRAD FAWR UPDATE

Centre of Excellence

A Foot and Ankle Centre has recently been opened in the hospital. This means that all outpatient and surgical services relating to foot and ankle problems are now provided in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

Patients will benefit from the development of a 'one stop shop' where patients can have a number of treatments carried out in one single visit. This includes clinic appointment, radiology, fitness for surgery assessment, orthotic and physiotherapy assessments, and finally surgery if required.

Inpatient facilities are impressive with single en suite rooms available for every patient which has significant benefits in terms of infection control. This facility is not currently available for orthopaedic patients in any other NHS hospital in Wales and very few such centres exist in the UK.

Dedicated waiting lists for foot and ankle patients can be micromanaged here which will bring considerable advantages by pooling patients with foot and ankle problems at one manageable site.

The unit has been very well equipped with state of the art technology including on site MRI, CT, portable ultrasound machines to assist with the diagnosis and treatment of many foot and ankle conditions.

Sophisticated equipment such as a dynamic pedobarograph will assess the outcomes of surgery and a digital mini image intensifier will also be available in the operating theatres.

Mr Kartik Hariharan, Consultant Orthopaedic and Foot and Ankle Surgeon said "This is an extremely exciting opportunity for our foot and ankle services which will have significant advantages for our patients. My colleagues and I view this as a unique opportunity to streamline foot and ankle services in this part of Wales.

Dedicated specialisation on this scale will also enhance skill levels of the whole team and provide for excellent training and research opportunities.

Some patients from outside the area may have some concerns if they need to travel further, but we are confident that once they experience the range of services that this centre of excellence can provide, they will realise that any such concerns will be far outweighed by the significant gains they will enjoy. The move will also help with decreasing the amount of patient traffic at the Royal Gwent Hospital and will release capacity for other specialties."

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