

Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive) [REDACTED]
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 20 November 2020 16:31
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer); [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: 2020 09 16 Asylum Accommodation Strategic Engagement Group for Wales
Agenda
Attachments: 2020 09 16 Asylum Accommodation Strategic Engagement Group for Wales
Agenda.pdf

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2020 16:11
To: [REDACTED] Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board) [REDACTED]
Subject: 2020 09 16 Asylum Accommodation Strategic Engagement Group for Wales Agenda

Good afternoon

[REDACTED] has just given [REDACTED] your name as the Local Health Board Chief Executive – there is a meeting tomorrow regarding asylum accommodation in Wales and I will send through the invite now, attached is the agenda.

This has only gone out recently, apologies for not including you at that time but we were trying to get your contact details.

[REDACTED]
Chief of Staff to Deputy Director | Pennaeth staff i ddirprwy gyfarwyddwr
Apprenticeship lead for RASI

Better Regulation, Cross Cutting, Devolution and Wales Unit / Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr uned Gwell Rheoleiddio,
Trawsbynciol, Datganoli a Chymru, Swyddfa Gartref
Wales Campus | Campws Cymru

[REDACTED]
 Home Office

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2020 14:45
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2020 09 16 Asylum Accommodation Strategic Engagement Group for Wales Agenda

Agenda for meeting tomorrow

Chief of Staff to Deputy Director | Pennaeth staff i ddirprwy gyfarwyddwr
Apprenticeship lead for RASI

Better Regulation, Cross Cutting, Devolution and Wales Unit / Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr uned Gwell Rheoleiddio,
Trawsbynciol, Datganoli a Chymru, Swyddfa Gartref
Wales Campus | Campws Cymru



Home Office

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Agenda

Title of meeting	Asylum Accommodation Strategic Engagement Group for Wales		
Date	16 th September 2020	Time	14.45 – 15.45
Venue	Via Skype for Business invite	Chair	[REDACTED]
Invitees	Office of the Secretary of State for Wales - [REDACTED] Police [REDACTED] PCC [REDACTED] WSMP [REDACTED] Pembrokeshire LA [REDACTED] Welsh Government [REDACTED] Public Health Wales [REDACTED] LHB – rep tbc Home Office [REDACTED] Home Office [REDACTED]		

	Items	Lead
1	Welcome and Introductions	All
2	Background	[REDACTED]
3	Partnership Working - Agreement on membership and purpose - Strategic plan - Operational Group [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4	AOB	All

(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive) [REDACTED]
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 23 November 2020 11:22
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer) [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: Clinical Assessment & Treatment Services for Service Users at Penally Site

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 October 2020 13:21
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda Health Board - Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care)
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Assistant Director of Primary Care) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Head of GMS Sustainability (Primary Care)) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Business Manager of General Medical & Provider Services)
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Medical Director / Deputy CEO)

Subject: RE: Clinical Assessment & Treatment Services for Service Users at Penally Site

Apologies for the delay replying.

I can confirm that the Home Office is happy with the proposal; we are seeking to discuss the funding arrangements with NHS Wales and I'll come back to you once this conversation has taken place.

Thanks

Resettlement, Asylum Support & Integration
UK Visas and Immigration



From: [REDACTED] Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 October 2020 17:54
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda Health Board - Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care)
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Assistant Director of Primary Care) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Head of GMS Sustainability (Primary Care)) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Business Manager of General Medical & Provider Services)
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Medical Director / Deputy CEO)

Subject: RE: Clinical Assessment & Treatment Services for Service Users at Penally Site

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies that I have not had chance to speak to you directly today – however I am hoping that you may have some feedback regarding our proposal and the financial support that is required from the Home Office to progress service implementation in line with the suggested timelines.

Hope to hear from you soon

Best wishes

[REDACTED] - Cyfarwyddwr Iechyd Cyhoeddus / Director of Public Health

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda / Hywel Dda University Health Board

Stay Safe  Cadwch yn ddiogel

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health)

Sent: 09 October 2020 17:28

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)

(Hywel Dda Health Board - Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care)

[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Assistant Director of Primary Care)

(Hywel Dda UHB - Head of GMS Sustainability (Primary Care))

[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Business Manager of General Medical & Provider Services)

[REDACTED] Hywel Dda UHB - Medical Director / Deputy CEO)

Subject: Clinical Assessment & Treatment Services for Service Users at Penally Site

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our conversation yesterday please see attached model (standard and enhanced) for health care provision at the Penally Site.

Best wishes

Cyfarwyddwr Iechyd Cyhoeddus / Director of Public Health

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda/Hywel Dda University Health Board

Ystwyth/Ystwyth

Hafan Derwen/Hafan Derwen

Parc Dewi Sant/St David's Park

Heol Jobswell/Jobswell Road

Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen

SA31 3BB

Stay Safe  Cadwch yn ddiogel

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CYMRU
NHS
WALES

**Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board**

Ein cyf/Our ref:

Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:

Rhif Ffôn /Telephone:

E-bost/E-mail:

Dyddiad/Date:

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

Sent by email to

Dear

Further to the discussion last night, please find attached the proposed Service model for the provision of clinical assessment and treatment services for SUs at the Penally facility.

This proposal also clarifies responsibility between Clear Springs, and the Health Board in delivering this approach and requires confirmation of both resources/ funding and agreed improvements in terms of the Medical Centre, ICT and security matters to enable the delivery of this model to commence. Our current interim service will suffice in the short-term without the appointment of a private nurse by the HO, however as we identified previously through the Strategic meeting we had always proposed that we would provide additional nurse cover through the employment of a HB member of staff. We have now included an enhanced service element to our proposal due to the newly emerging health needs by service users arriving without any health assessment information and the large numbers of young men arriving at any one time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely

**Director of Primary Care,
Community and Long Term Care**

Director of Public Health

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 Dros Dro/Interim Chair
Miss Maria Battle
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

Penally Camp Asylum Seekers Support

Primary Health Care Services Model (INTERIM)

Aim

- To provide immediately necessary and urgent treatment for any conditions assessed as requiring an urgent response, excluding medical emergencies. This may include assessment (including by remote means), treatment, prescribing and onward referral to local services where appropriate.
- It is recognised that these Service Users may have particular needs. This service is not appropriate for SUs with complex medical needs, including complex mental health needs, and an assurance has been given that the SUs transferred to Penally will have assessed as suitable for local services. It has been advised that all SUs are adult males.
- This service will be operate 8am-6.30pm Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays.
- This service is reliant on close partnership working and co-operation with Clearsprings.

Delivery

- In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the remote triage model widely adopted by Practices across Wales for the safety of staff and patients, this model is based on remote assessment and treatment where this is assessed as clinically appropriate.
- The service will be led by the Advanced Paramedic Practitioner at Tenby Surgery, supervised and supported by the GP Lead.
- A daily telephone call at an agreed time (12 midday) will take place between the Advanced Paramedic Practitioner and the Clearsprings SU Wellbeing officer. It is the responsibility of the Clearsprings Wellbeing Officer to relay any issues to the Advanced Paramedic Practitioner, who will make an assessment for what further assessment is appropriate. SUs are not able to contact the service directly.
- Where appropriate remote consultations will be carried out using telephone or video consultation software. It is the responsibility of the HO/Clearsprings to ensure that digital facilities are available to SUs to use.
- Language needs will be met using Language Line interpretation services.
- Clinical records – the secure electronic transfer of medical records including details of individual health assessments are required to take place quickly.
- On-site Medical Centre facilities – it is the responsibility of Clearsprings to ensure the facility meets minimal IPC requirements, that arrangements for the safe storage and disposal of clinical waste are in place and that the facility is adequately equipped and furnished. Tenby Surgery clinicians working on-site will carry a medical bag including equipment for examination and assessment.
- Security – it is a requirement that all clinicians working on-site are provided with a security escort and that a member of the security team or other site staff as

appropriate are present at the Medical Centre waiting area during consultations in the neighbouring room. Clinicians are being issued with personal panic alarms, and security staff are expected to respond immediately.

- Pre-arranged clinics on-site with face-to-face consultations will take place subject to prior remote assessment on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, with handover to the OoH service as appropriate.
- Other acute visits to site on other days will be provided where deemed essential.

Primary Health Care Services Model (PLANNED, ENHANCED)

Elements in addition to above Interim Plan

Aim

- to provide access to comprehensive primary health care services to the Service Users at Penally Camp via registration with Tenby Surgery to include health screening where this is outstanding, nursing care and assessment, and access to GP services with onward referral to local specialised services where appropriate.

Delivery

- Enhanced Nursing
- Individualised Health Care Screening – all SUs should have had a comprehensive standardised individual healthcare assessment on arrival in Wales as stipulated by WG, and many will have come via CHAP. These reviews will have included immunisation assessments and screening for TB. Records of these individual healthcare assessments should be shared with Tenby Surgery on registration. Those SUs who have not had an individual healthcare assessment or in circumstances where no records can be found, will require a catch-up assessment.
- An on-site catch-up programme of screening will be established utilising Practice Nurses from Tenby Surgery, based on the CHAP assessment format. There is a requirement for these nurses to undergo training for this, led by the Primary Care Nursing Team.
- Working with PHW colleagues to provide TB screening as appropriate.
- Catch-up immunisation programmes to be implemented in line with Green Book guidance.
- Basic CDM monitoring and treatment room services to be provided as is clinically appropriate.

Deployment of Planned Model

- Based on site visits on 18 September and 8 October 2020, a Risk Assessment and Action Plan will be generated to capture areas of concern and the sections that must be put in place to address these and mitigate the risks to staff visiting the site.
- Subject to agreement (including funding) with the HO and Clearsprings, this model can be implemented from week commencing 19 October 2020.

- Capacity at Tenby Surgery to be maintained through staff working additional hours/sessions, and funded use of bank/locum backfill

Costings

- The assessing of the staffing requirement is likely to remain fluid and dynamic due to unknown scale of the clinical need. Full costs for this service are to be met by the HO.
- Medical Centre – costs associated with the improvements required to make fit for purpose are the responsibility of the HO/Clearsprings. This includes compliance with IPC requirements and safer layout of the room.
- Full funding of staffing is required to prevent depletion in resources at Tenby Surgery
 - Practice Nurse (Band 7): £150 per day (2 clinical sessions)
 - Advanced Paramedic Practitioner (Band 8a): £40 per hour, approx. £360 per week predicted (may vary)
 - GP Clinical Lead: £115 per hour (to backfill with GP locum,) approx. £345 per week predicted (may vary)

[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive [REDACTED])
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 20 November 2020 16:42
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer) [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: FOR INFORMATION: Home office answers to Penally priority questions for operations group (OFFICIAL SENSITIVE)
Attachments: Home Office QA 20200921 issued to operations group.docx
Importance: High

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 September 2020 13:26
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda Health Board - Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Transformation Comms UKVI
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health)
[REDACTED] (Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
[REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOR INFORMATION: Home office answers to Penally priority questions for operations group (OFFICIAL SENSITIVE)

Importance: High

Colleagues,

The operations group has just received the attached information which are answers to their questions they had raised and identified as priority.

To ensure all parties have had sight I am therefore sharing with this group for information.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
Senior Portfolio Manager – Vulnerability, Immigration and Counter Terrorism

Uwch Rheolwr Portffolio – Bregusrwydd, Mewnffudo a Gwrthderfysgaeth

Home Office Wales Team | Home Office

Tîm Cymru'r Swyddfa Gartref | Swyddfa Gartref

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<u>PRIORITY ISSUES</u>	
1.	<p>Will the Home Office delay occupation of the site for at least a couple of weeks to ensure planning can take place and minimise the anticipated negative outcomes?</p> <p>No, we have taken on the site from MOD today, 21 September.</p>
2.	<p>Will the Home Office share an intended occupation plan which sets out when arrivals will start and how the camp will build towards capacity?</p> <p>At full capacity the site can accommodate up to 478 people. We anticipate being able to accommodate a maximum of 250 people to comply with social distancing requirements.</p> <p>We are keeping all stakeholders updated of our mobilisations plans as they develop through the multi-agency forum. We plan to bring up to 25 people on to the site every day from Monday 21 September.</p>
3.	<p>Will the camp be filled by those currently living in hotels in Wales? If not, why not?</p> <p>We will be moving people into this accommodation from other initial accommodation including hotels from across the UK in line with operational need. We expect to transfer people from hotels in Wales for the first few days given their proximity to the site.</p>
4.	<p>Can the Home Office guarantee that those transferred to the camp will have already quarantined elsewhere and had health assessments undertaken (with data being shared with local health providers)?</p> <p>We currently provide quarantine facilities to new arrivals through our existing Initial Accommodation (IA) facilities and the additional contingency provision of single room accommodation in hotels. This is in line with public health advice that wherever possible isolation should take place in self-contained accommodation.</p> <p>We intend to maintain that approach and will therefore only move people into Penally who have completed a 14 day period of self-isolation, where that is required (e.g. if arrived from France), and provided they show no signs of Covid-19.</p>
5.	<p>Please confirm the maximum limit of individuals who will be accommodated in the camp. We are</p> <p>At full capacity the site can accommodate up to 478 people. We anticipate being able to accommodate a</p>

	using an assumption of 250 but we need to agree the maximum to plan effectively.	maximum of 250 people to comply with social distancing requirements however this number may reduce further as we finalise the site specification as part of our Covid-19 compliance measures.
6.	How will the Home Office ensure that those living in the camp only do so for 3-4 weeks maximum before being dispersed elsewhere? The resumption of asylum cessation casework means that existing dispersal areas are unlikely to have capacity.	<p>This accommodation is contingency accommodation. Our ambition is to house asylum seekers within the traditional asylum accommodation estate without the need for contingency accommodation, and to move people into dispersed accommodation as soon as possible. We are working to address the issues putting pressure on our asylum accommodation. This includes resuming support cessations, to get people moving out of accommodation when their cases are concluded.</p> <p>In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required us in some instances to use temporary accommodation, including hotels, to fulfil or statutory obligations to house destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.</p> <p>During these unprecedented times the government is working with a range of partners and across departments to secure further accommodation and the MOD has offered use of some of its sites.</p> <p>But recognising the need to continue to build capacity in the short term, whilst there remains significant pressure in the system, we have been exploring further options to accommodate asylum seekers.</p> <p>Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped</p>
7.	Why is transferring individuals to army camps being seen as an improvement in standards to being supported in hotels? This appears to be a deterioration in support, rather than an improvement.	

		accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to the standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation
8.	When will the Home Office officially confirm use of the camp so that positive engagement can take place with the local community?	The Home Office Press Office will provide official comment on request.
9.	What engagement does the Home Office plan to do with the local community to mitigate and reduce tensions? A delay in transferring individuals is strongly advised.	The Home Office is committed to working collaboratively with communities and stakeholders to ensure that destitute asylum seekers are provided with safe, secure and suitable accommodation while their asylum claims are considered. This includes working in partnership with local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups in England and Local Health Boards in Wales, Public Health England and Wales and the Welsh Government. We have developed a comprehensive package of communications which will be issued as appropriate.
10.	In undertaking local community impact assessments what communication and engagement will/planned take place to reassure them? And also impact on nearby Tenby?	Whilst we are working at pace, we are committed to ensuring the accommodation and wrap around services meet the needs of those accommodated, and we take account of and mitigate risks and concerns of the wider community. This is no different to the approach we take across the UK in our use of accommodation for destitute asylum seekers, including temporary accommodation such as hotels. The Home Office is committed to working collaboratively with communities and stakeholders to ensure that destitute asylum seekers are provided with safe, secure

		<p>and suitable accommodation while their asylum claims are considered. This includes working in partnership with local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups in England and Local Health Boards in Wales, Public Health England and Wales and the Welsh Government.</p> <p>We are committed to open and transparent engagement with local authorities and we have been and remain hugely grateful for the co-operation and support received from many local authorities throughout the United Kingdom against the backdrop of the challenges Covid-19 has presented.</p>
11.	<p>Will the Home Office commit to providing advance notice to all Working Group and Operational Group members on proposals and decisions? Effectively planning requires transparency and collaboration.</p>	<p>The Home Office is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholder groups and we are providing regular updates to stakeholders through the multi-agency forums now in place.</p>
	FUNDING	
12.	<p>What funding will the Home Office make available to Pembrokeshire Council to deal with community tensions, the need for interpretation in public services, effective communications work etc.?</p>	<p>We are working on the same principle as in other asylum seeker accommodation however we recognise the challenges the location of the site presents in terms of accessibility and are working with our contractor to identify and address additional services we may need to put in place to address this. This work is ongoing and further updates will be provided. There are no plans to provide any additional funding. The Home Office does not provide any additional funding in connection with any of the accommodation that is provided for asylum seeker. Council tax will be paid to the Local Authority.</p>

13.	What funding will the Home Office make available to Hywel Dda Health Board to ensure adequate GP, dentistry, mental health and other services can be provided?	<p>We are working on the same principle as in other asylum seeker accommodation however we recognise the challenges the location of the site presents in terms of accessibility and are working with our contractor to identify and address additional services we may need to put in place to address this. This work is ongoing and further updates will be provided. There are no plans to provide any additional funding. We are working with the relevant health authority to agree what services need to be commissioned as part of the preparations to use the site.</p>
14.	What funding will the Home Office make available to Dyfed Powys Police to respond to the rising community tensions and ensure sufficient patrols can be made around the camp and Tenby?	<p>We are working on the same principle as in other asylum seeker accommodation however we recognise the challenges the location of the site presents in terms of accessibility and are working with our contractor to identify and address additional services we may need to put in place to address this. This work is ongoing and further updates will be provided. There are no plans to provide any additional funding. The Home Office does not provide any additional funding in connection with any of the accommodation that is provided for asylum seeker. It will be open for the police to apply for special grant funding to cover their costs.</p>
	ACCOMMODATION AND LOCATION	
15.	How many unrelated adults will live together in each building on site? The Home Office needs to consider the impact on Article 8 rights to privacy and also safeguarding concerns. There is potential for conflict between groups, as we often see in refugee camps across Europe.	<p>We anticipate being able to accommodate a maximum of 250 people to comply with social distancing requirements however this number may reduce further as we finalise the site specification. As with all of the accommodation in use, the Home Office and its providers take care to ensure that risks are understood and mitigated, and the needs of service users are met, and that service users understand the terms of their use of the accommodation.</p>

16.	Can shots be heard from nearby firing range and is the firing range live? Has the Home Office Risk or any other assessment been undertaken on the impact this will have on those arriving with PTSD?	<p>The firing range is not part of the site being used by the Home Office and at present the MOD will continue to use it. We have put in place a safeguarding screening process to ensure that those who are known to be vulnerable are not housed on the site.</p> <p>Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to the standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation</p> <p>The environmental health team have been invited to attend the site.</p> <p>The 'Safe', 'Habitable', and 'Fit for Purpose' Accommodation standards in the AASC Statement of Requirements are based on published guidance in the form of the Decent Home Standard, The Welsh Quality Homes Standard (WQHS) and the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS).</p>
17.	Has each building on site been checked to ensure it complies with building safety and Welsh Housing Standards? When the Home Office agreed new asylum contracts in 2019, they confirmed that the standard of accommodation should comply with Welsh Standards. Has the local authority's environmental health team been involved?	
18.	Has the Home Office looked at previous examples of refugee camps within the UK to ensure lessons have been learned? We are aware of a similar (but larger) camp which existed in rural Wales (Tonfanau) in 1972 to resettle Ugandan Asians. Their rights and circumstances were different but there may be learning which can be applied.	<p>The use of Tonfanau in 1972 is an example of this country's proud history of supporting those fleeing from persecution. As is noted, the circumstances and legal framework were somewhat different then, we are confident the arrangements we are putting in place are appropriate to meet the needs of asylum seekers now, building on our experience of providing asylum accommodation over several years.</p> <p>We recognise the challenges the location of the site presents in terms of accessibility and are working with our contractor to identify and address and additional services we may need to put in place on site to address this. We</p>
19.	The camp looks quite isolated – how will people get around or access services? Apparently people "won't be locked in" but if there's limited local bus routes and it's a way to walk anywhere along a busy road, how will people access any services that do exist?	

		have a separate transport contractor and they will locate a minibus at each location for medical appointments and other necessary journeys. This work is ongoing and further updates will be provided.
20.	Will internet access be provided on site? What form will this take (i.e. 4G MiFi / Broadband / provision of smart phones etc.)	We will ensure there is access to the internet and phones.
21.	What entertainment will be provided on site?	We are working with our contractor to ensure that all the services and support our service users need is available to them on site in order to minimise the need or desire for them to leave the site. Our contractor is also putting a range of entertainment and activities in place to occupy service users during their stay and we will be engaging with the third sector to provide additional activities and support . We intend the site will be run to the same specifications and standards as that provided in all Initial Accommodation.
22.	What account has been taken of cultural and religious needs; will there be a prayer facility?	The operation of the site will take cultural and religious needs into account, There will be a multi-faith room and catering will take account of dietary requirements in accordance with religious needs.
	SUPPORT	
23.	Please confirm translation and interpretation arrangements	As with all our other sites, we will ensure our they have access to relevant support and wellbeing services.
24.	What food will be provided	All occupants will be provided with three meals a day, as in other catered sites taking account of dietary requirements in accordance with religious needs as appropriate.
25.	What financial support / vouchers will be provided?	None – this will be a fully catered facility with asylum seekers' needs provided for.
	NEEDS ASSESSMENTS	

26.	What safeguarding measures will be in place?	Providers must comply with the Home Office's policy and guidance relating to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, including recognising the indicators of a vulnerable or at risk person with specific needs, and responding appropriately to their needs, ensuring that guidance and training provided to staff regarding the identification and management of vulnerable Service Users with specific needs, or at risk Service Users, is kept up to date and aligns with accepted good practice, and that the Provider has sought input from the Home Office to ensure that their guidance and materials align with the Authority's safeguarding strategy.
27.	How will the risks of PTSD re-traumatisation be considered and managed given the use of an army camp to resettle those who may have been detained by their country of origin's military?	We have put in place a safeguarding screening process to ensure that those who are known to be vulnerable are not housed on the site
28.	What needs assessment will take place of the asylum seekers who will be housed there	Checks will be made of Home Office systems to ensure the single males placed at these sites are, where known, healthy and mobile, with no known vulnerabilities or safeguarding concerns.
29.	How will people report issues and concerns?	All service users have access to a 24/7 Advice, Issue reporting and Eligibility service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services.
30.	What advice will people be given on hate crime and how to report abusive behaviour?	We take the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and we are taking all necessary and legal steps to protect the people in our care. All incidents at our accommodation providers are reported to the Home Office immediately, and we then work with the provider to put in additional measures if required. We continually review the security at asylum accommodation sites with providers, who work closely

		with local police to ensure action is taken if someone tries to access a site.
31.	What approach will be taken towards conflict within the accommodation?	<p>We take the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and we are taking all necessary and legal steps to protect the people in our care. All incidents at our accommodation providers are reported to the Home Office immediately, and we then work with the provider to put in additional measures if required.</p> <p>We continually review the security at asylum accommodation sites with providers, who work closely with local police to ensure action is taken if someone attempts unauthorised access to a site.</p>
		COVID
32.	What reassurance will be given to those accommodated there about new arrivals and their C19 status?	<p>We have worked with Public Health advisors throughout the coronavirus outbreak to inform a national approach, adjusted to account for local concerns. We remain in regular dialogue with public health officials.</p> <p>A wide range of measures have been implemented to ensure public health guidance is adhered to wherever possible.</p> <p>The sleeping accommodation in both sites is in the form of dormitory blocks that at full capacity hold between 2 and 20 people.</p> <p>We have sought public health advice on how we can make best use of this accommodation, working within the constraints of the configuration, whilst minimising risks from covid-19. We intend to use the dormitories as shared rooms but to limit occupancy ensuring a minimum distance between beds of at least 2 metres. This will be</p>

		<p>complemented by a range of additional safety measures including increased cleaning of surfaces, availability of hand sanitisers, a track and trace system and extensive communications with residents around covid-19 control measures.</p> <p>We currently provide quarantine facilities to new arrivals through our existing Initial Accommodation (IA) facilities and the additional contingency provision of single room accommodation in hotels. This is in line with public health advice that wherever possible isolation should take place in self-contained accommodation.</p> <p>We intend to maintain that approach and will therefore only move people into Penally who have completed a 14 day period of self-isolation, where that is required (e.g. if arrived from France), and provided they show no signs of Covid-19.</p>
33.	How will the Home Office ensure social-distancing is maintained within the site?	<p>The service provider will be responsible for ensuring service users are aware of the social distancing guidelines in place. A wide range of measures have been implemented to ensure public health advice is followed as far as possible in the operation of the site,</p>
34.	How will those living in the camp self-isolate if they show symptoms of Covid-19, or anyone they are living with shows symptoms?	A wide range of measures have been implemented to ensure public health guidance is adhered to.
35.	How will plans for the camp be affected by a local lockdown in Pembrokeshire and/or the existing dispersal areas of Wales?	A wide range of measures have been implemented to ensure public health guidance is adhered to.

Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive [REDACTED]
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 23 November 2020 11:17
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer) [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: FOR INFORMATION: MOD sites stakeholder factsheet
Attachments: Contingency Asylum Accommodation Ministry of Defence Sites Factsheet .pdf

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 October 2020 15:25
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Hywel Dda Health Board - Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term
Care [REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Transformation Comms UKVI) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital
Quarter) [REDACTED]

Subject: FOR INFORMATION: MOD sites stakeholder factsheet

Colleagues,

Sharing for the attached information- It is a factsheet for stakeholders regarding contingency asylum accommodation on MOD sites.

Please feel free to share as you see appropriate.

Best wishes,

Senior Portfolio Manager – Vulnerability, Immigration and Counter Terrorism

Uwch Rheolwr Portffolio – Bregusrwydd, Mewnfudo a Gwrthderfysgaeth

Home Office Wales Team | Home Office

Tim Cymru'r Swyddfa Gartref | Swyddfa Gartref

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UK Visas
& Immigration

Contingency Asylum Accommodation

Ministry of Defence sites Factsheet

October 2020

Factsheet

In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required the Home Office in some instances to use temporary accommodation, including hotels, and more recently Ministry of Defence (MOD) sites in Kent and Pembrokeshire, to ensure we continue to fulfil statutory obligations to support and accommodate destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.

You can find detailed information on the asylum seeking process on Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/claim-asylum> and more information on why and how we use contingency asylum accommodation on Gov.uk:

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/03/factsheet-asylum-accommodation-and-applications/>

This factsheet provides some key information about our use of MOD sites.
--

Why are we using MOD sites?

The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide support including accommodation to destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are being considered.

In recent months, the asylum system has faced significant pressures and it has become necessary to source, and use, additional temporary accommodation, such as hotels, to ensure the Home Office can continue to meet its statutory obligations towards destitute asylum seekers.

In the urgent situation we are in, we have had to identify further suitable and available accommodation and put it to use quickly. This now includes the use of two MOD sites in Kent and Pembrokeshire. The sites are being run by Clearsprings Ready Homes, one of the Home Office's Accommodation Providers under our Asylum Accommodation and Support contracts.

Who will be using the sites?

The sites are being used to accommodate single, adult male asylum seekers. These are people who have claimed asylum in the United Kingdom, and whose asylum claims are under consideration. They are not being detained and so are free to come and go but are expected to be on site overnight.

All asylum seekers are subject to an initial screening process by UK Visas and Immigration, which includes security and safeguarding checks. All those using the accommodation will have already been in the United Kingdom for at least 14 days and completed the necessary period of self-isolation before being moved to the sites.

Further checks are made, to confirm suitability for transfer to the contingency accommodation, before individuals are moved to different sites and asylum seekers are fully briefed by Clearsprings Ready Homes in advance of their move.

We are not using the sites to accommodate women or children, or vulnerable adult males, and we will not be moving anyone onto the sites who is showing Covid-19 symptoms.

Are the sites suitable to be used for accommodation?

The sites were until recently used by the MOD for accommodation. The accommodation is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing asylum accommodation standards contractual requirements.

The MOD has given permission to use the site for 12 months, but the use of this facility will be temporary, and will be discontinued as soon as the Home Office is able to do so.

Taking account of the need to ensure the site is Covid-safe and social distancing can be maintained, current plans are that the sites will accommodate a maximum of 234 asylum seekers in Pembrokeshire and 431 in Kent.

What is being provided for the asylum seekers on site?

All the basic needs of residents will be met on site, a comprehensive induction process including accommodation, food, entertainment and pastoral support arranged by Clearsprings Ready Homes.

The MOD sites will be fully catered (three meals per day) so asylum seekers will not receive a weekly support allowance or vouchers. Options will be provided which cater for special dietary, cultural or religious requirements and additional meals will be provided as required. Additional support items such as toiletries are being provided, along with access to laundry facilities.

Televisions are available at the site and wi-fi will also be provided allowing for internet access. Mobile telephones are provided if asylum seekers do not have one to ensure that contact can be made.

All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services.

Clearsprings Ready Homes, Migrant Help and the Home Office are working with a range of stakeholders which include national non-governmental and charitable organisations to provide support to asylum seekers, for example, English lessons or volunteering opportunities. Any offers of support can be emailed directly to: Penally@migranthelpuk.org and Folkestone@migranthelpuk.org.

What information is provided to the asylum seekers on arrival?

Information about what asylum seekers can expect from asylum accommodation is primarily given through a comprehensive induction process. This includes information

relating to adherence to local social distancing and Covid-19 regulations. Home Office information on rights and entitlements is also provided.

The induction process is supplemented the information provided online by Home Office:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-in-asylum-accommodation>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-uk-rights-and-expectations>

and Migrant Help:

- <https://www.migranthelpuk.org/about-asylum-services>.

Induction material is provided in the language of the country of origin or language of choice. Interpreters are available 24/7 when speaking with Migrant Help.

What healthcare is being provided?

Healthcare arrangements are in place at both sites, and have been subject of discussion between the Home Office and the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group in Kent and Local Health Board in Pembrokeshire.

The Home Office has funded a private nurse at both sites.

What safeguarding measures are in place?

Using information from Home Office's screening processes and safeguarding teams, asylum seeker's cases are pre-checked and only allocated accommodation at the site if there are no indicators of vulnerability, modern slavery or exploitation in their case history.

Asylum seekers are able to contact Migrant Help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year if they need help, advice or guidance, that includes raising issues relating to safeguarding.

There are Clearsprings Ready Homes staff on site 24/7 to deal with any issues raised by the residents and to ensure that their safeguarding requirements are met.

If Clearsprings Ready Homes staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that the safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers, staff, or members of the community are at risk, they are obliged to take appropriate action including contacting the police, ambulance or local authority services or making an onward referral to the Home Office safeguarding team.

What Covid-19 guidance and measures are in place?

Measures are kept under review to ensure compliance with the law and all public health advice in England and Wales is taken into account. These measures include:

- Written guidance in respect of self-hygiene, social distancing and self-isolation is issued to all service users;
- Hand sanitisation stations are in place around both sites with pictorial guidance on COVID and social distancing requirements;
- Mealtimes are staggered to enable social distancing at meal times;
- A track and trace system is in place at both sites. Service users are reminded of the current local social distancing requirements in place when they leave the sites;

- Any asylum seeker user who develops symptoms of COVID-19 will be instructed to self-isolate and provided with suitable accommodation to enable them to do so. Daily welfare checks will be made on individuals isolating;
- Asylum seekers will have the same access to testing as the general population.

What security arrangements are in place?

A security risk assessment has been conducted for both sites. Local authorities and police forces have been and will continue to be consulted on matters relating to security, safety and community cohesion, to minimise the risk to any individuals that are accommodated on the sites as well as members of the community.

Both sites have a security presence 24/7. The Home Office and Clearsprings Ready Homes keep security under review.

All incidents are reported to the Home Office immediately by Clearsprings. The Home Office then work with the Clearsprings Ready Homes to put additional measures in place, if required.

What about the impacts on the local community?

The Home Office recognises that there have been concerns raised by local communities regarding both sites and continues work closely with the local authority and other partners to understand and address those concerns. This includes working closely with the police and other agencies in matters relating to the operation of the sites, safety and security and the handling of any protests.

The safety and security of the local community, asylum seekers, staff and visitors to the sites is of paramount importance. The Home Office is committed to open and transparent engagement and has attended online local community engagement events to understand and address concerns raised by local residents.

Clearsprings Ready Homes is an experienced provider who have all the required policies and procedures in place around security, safeguarding, critical incident management and health and safety.

It is important to remember that the asylum seekers on site are seeking protection in the United Kingdom, and awaiting the outcome of their claims. They are not being detained, are free to come and go and are subject to the same laws and protections as any other member of society.

The Home Office will continue to work with the police, local authorities and other partners who are involved in managing community relations locally to ensure that any issues that may arise are handled appropriately and concerns addressed.

How is this being funded, including unexpected pressures on local services?

The Home Office is funding the operation of the sites, which are designed to meet the basic needs of asylum seekers. In addition, the Home Office will pay full Local Authority business rate charges, and a private nurse is being provided at both sites.

Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive) [REDACTED]
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 20 November 2020 16:35
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer); [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: Health Provision Penally site

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:39:55 PM
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health) [REDACTED] (Head of Health
Emergency Planning)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Steve Moore (Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
[REDACTED] Swansea Bay UHB - Community & Primary Care)
[REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)
[REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)
Subject: RE: Health Provision Penally site

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the swift response, would it be possible for me to Join the call tomorrow afternoon, if we cant get something else in prior to that?

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2020 12:00
To: [REDACTED] Head of Health Emergency Planning)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
[REDACTED] Swansea Bay UHB - Community & Primary Care)
[REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)
[REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)
Subject: RE: Health Provision Penally site

[EXTERNAL] Please be cautious. This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks [REDACTED] a conversation will be very helpful
I am now chairing the Health Response Sub-group and we met for the first time this morning (as you know the Health Board was not brought into this matter until Tuesday afternoon this week).
This morning we identified a number of immediate actions that need to be delivered/worked through with a series of work streams now set off to make them happen. We meet again tomorrow afternoon.
I want to stress at this point however the issue raised by my CEO [REDACTED] at the Home Office meeting yesterday afternoon, that our state of readiness is a major concern. I would now like to add, that after the meeting I have just

chaired we will **not** be ready on Monday – there are too many unknowns and unanswered questions to work through and we do not want to be responsible for causing any further harm to this vulnerable group of individuals. Thank you, and I'll be in touch re availability.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Cyfarwyddwr Iechyd Cyhoeddus / Director of Public Health
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda / Hywel Dda University Health Board
[REDACTED]

Stay Safe  Cadwch yn ddiogel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2020 11:47
To: [REDACTED] Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health; [REDACTED] (Head of Health
Emergency Planning); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Health Provision Penally site

H [REDACTED]

I understand that you are in the process of putting a team together to discuss the requirement for a health provision on site at Penally.

I appreciate that there are likely to be a lot of unanswered questions about what the health provision will need to cover and how it can be stood up.

As it currently stands we are hoping to be able to identify Service Users that have had an initial health screening and have no serious underlying health conditions. We are still working to finalise the details around that and identify the first SU's that will be moved to the site.

It might be useful for us to have a call today to discuss the provision and understand what is possible in terms of health availability with a view to initial numbers arriving on site as early as Monday.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Service Delivery Manager (Serco)- Midlands and East of England and Sodexo
Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration
UK Visas and Immigration: 1st Floor Dominion Court: 41 Station Road: Solihull: B91 3RT



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Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive) [REDACTED]
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 23 November 2020 11:19
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer) [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: Home Office Response to Letter of 25 September
Attachments: 08.10.20 ALL.pdf

From: Public Enquiries (CD) <Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 October 2020 10:17
Subject: Home Office Response to Letter of 25 September

Good morning,

Please find attached a response from [REDACTED] MP to your correspondence of 25 September.

Kind regards,

Home Office Direct Communications Unit

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Home Office

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

BY EMAIL ONLY

08 October 2020

Dear All,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September to the Home Secretary about the use of Penally Training Camp as accommodation for asylum seekers. I am responding as Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts.

The current global pandemic has presented significant challenges when it comes to the provision of asylum accommodation. During these unprecedented times the government has worked tirelessly with local authorities and other partners to provide asylum seekers, who would otherwise be destitute, with suitable accommodation – as we are required to do by law. This includes the locations in Wales you mention, and I am grateful for the clear support of the local authorities in those areas that are in use as dispersal centres.

However, there remains a need to continue to build capacity in the short term whilst there remains significant pressure in the system. Urgent work to source additional accommodation led to the identification of Penally Training Camp as a suitable site, available immediately, to use to accommodate up to 234 asylum seekers.

In such an urgent situation, we have worked quickly to identify additional sources of accommodation that are available and suitable, and to put them into use. Such is the pressing need to create additional capacity that our work with partners has by necessity been focused on the operation of the site, rather than whether the site should be used. Given that pressure I am pleased to see how engaged everyone has been in working with us through the multi-agency forum. I am grateful to you and partner organisations for the significant contribution you have made to this over the past fortnight and am confident this will continue over the coming weeks.

I appreciate there are challenges, but I do not accept that this accommodation is unsuitable, or that the location presents insurmountable difficulties in terms of the provision of support. Until recently the accommodation has been used to accommodate large numbers of Armed Forces personnel, and is entirely adequate for its new purpose, with the same standards applied as for other asylum accommodation. We have taken account of Public Health Wales guidance, with a range of measures to ensure the accommodation is Covid safe for asylum seekers, staff and visitors.

The Home Office, which is meeting the costs of operating the site, and its accommodation provider, Clearsprings have put in place provisions to ensure the accommodation is safe, secure and that everyone has access to the support they need, including where necessary transport for essential journeys including for interviews. We are also working with Migrant Help to ensure that asylum seekers have access to information on the availability of legal

advice and representation and signposting of asylum seekers to the Legal Aid Agency, where appropriate.

I fully understand that you have questions over funding for local services that will be required to support the asylum seekers during their time at Penally, particularly for health and policing activity. The Home Office is committed to paying full business rates for the Penally Training Camp during our tenure there. In Wales the Business Rates Liability payable is set by the Welsh Government based on the Valuation Office Agency assessment and is set to fund local public services which I hope provides some reassurance. The Home Office is also now providing an onsite nurse from this week. In terms of additional policing demands, any force facing significant additional costs as a result of unplanned or unexpected events can apply for additional funding from the Police Special Grant.

The safety and wellbeing of those we support, and the local communities are of paramount importance. We remain committed to working closely with communities and stakeholders to ensure destitute asylum seekers are housed in safe, secure and suitable accommodation, and that they are treated with dignity while their asylum claim is considered.

It is regrettable that there has been some hostility, caused by some who have chosen to deliberately fuel resentment and create community tension. Such behaviour is never acceptable and we are fully engaged with the Police on their operational planning and are working effectively together to ensure the continued safety of those on site and in the local community. It is equally clear that a distinction should be drawn between those disruptive elements, and the particular concerns of local residents about the use of the site, the pace of developments and lack of opportunity to be consulted in advance. Whilst there are no plans to reverse decisions taken, I do agree that it is vital that we continue to work together and to continue to listen to concerns and I am aware that officials recently participated in an online community engagement event.

With best wishes,

A large, irregular black redaction box covering the signature of the official.

 MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Immigration Compliance and the Courts

Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive) [REDACTED]
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 23 November 2020 11:13
To: [REDACTED] Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer) [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: New arrivals at Penally Site

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 September 2020 21:22
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Hywel Dda
Health Board - Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care)
(Hywel Dda UHB - Assistant Director of Primary Care) [REDACTED] (Head of Health
Emergency Planning) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: New arrivals at Penally Site
Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this.

On the first point I note your advice in relation to self-isolation for service users on site. As you are aware we have taken account of public health advice and taken the necessary steps to ensure the site is Covid safe for all on site.

We are also ensuring that all service users are provided with clear information and advice as part of their induction and that they have already spent a 14 day period of quarantine prior to their arrival; furthermore we are not moving people in from any areas currently subject to local lockdowns.

Beyond that, we continue to adhere to the current Covid regulations for Wales, in the movement of both service users and staff which stipulates "You will not need to isolate for 14 days if you are arriving in Wales from within the Common Travel Area, which includes the UK, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man."

On the second point I understand [REDACTED] did attempt to contact you from 8.30am to inform you of the planned arrival of service users today. It was not possible to advise you or other partners any earlier. The Home Office team is in regular dialogue with Dyfed Powys Police senior commands about planning for the safe arrival of service users on site. Acting on operational advice, we took the decision to strictly limit the circulation of operational plans; but at the same time wanted to appraise our partners at the earliest possible moment, hence the early attempts to call. I appreciate that presents some challenges but hope you will understand the reasons for this.

I would like to reiterate what I have said at all our strategic engagement meetings, we really do want to work in the most collaborative way possible with all partners on this deployment and are grateful for your continued support.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Deputy Director / Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr
Union, Devolution and Better Regulation Unit / Uned Undeb, Datganoli a Gwell Rheoleiddio
Datganoli a Chymru, Swyddfa Gartref
Wales and South West Campus lead / Pennaeth campws Cymru a de orllewin



Home Office



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Devolution
and You

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Director Of Public Health) [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 September 2020 12:43

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board

[REDACTED] Hywel Dda
Health Board - Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care
(Hywel Dda UHB - Assistant Director of Primary Care [REDACTED] Head of Health
Emergency Planning) [REDACTED]

Subject: New arrivals at Penally Site

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just been made aware that two coach loads of 32 young men have arrived this morning at Penally in Pembrokeshire (between 9.30 and 11am).

I understand that once coach include young men who have been staying at a variety of hotels in London Boroughs and were collected from their hotels in the very early hours. The other coach has transported young men from one single hotel in Bristol. We are yet to formally receive any health related or personal information for these young men.

I have a couple of key issues I would like to raise with you:

1. Due to the escalation in transmission of COVID infection we are seeing in all parts of the UK, Wales included (with a local lockdown already operational within the Hywel Dda Health Board area) we are anxious that this might increase the risk of an outbreak at the Penally Site. My **advice** to you as Director of Public Health, due to the large number of arrivals in one go today from a variety of different London Boroughs and Bristol that to protect the health of each other, site staff, visitors and the local community in Tenby and Penally - that all new arrivals are **asked** if they would self-isolate for 14 days and Clearsprings Ready Homes support them to do this. The sensitivities surrounding the Penally site make this a reasonable request and I would ask that you consider supporting my advice.
2. I would also like to state that I am extremely disappointed in the approach that has been taken today. Despite having talked at length previously about a collaborative approach to the situation we have in Penally, the logistical arrangements must clearly have been put in place over the weekend to facilitate the arrival of the asylum seekers so early this morning yet the Health Board was not informed.

Please respond by return.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Cyfarwyddwr Iechyd Cyhoeddus / Director of Public Health
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda/Hywel Dda University Health Board

Ystwyth/Ystwyth

Hafan Derwen/Hafan Derwen

Parc Dewi Sant/St David's Park

Heol Jobswell/Jobswell Road

Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen

SA31 3BB

Stay Safe  Cadwch yn ddiogel

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(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)

From: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - PA to Chief Executive [REDACTED])
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Sent: 23 November 2020 11:09
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer [REDACTED])
(Hywel Dda UHB - Freedom of Information Officer)
Subject: FW: SHARING FOR INFORMATION: COMMS on asylum seekers moving into MoD sites

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 September 2020 16:43
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Hywel Dda Health Board -
Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care) [REDACTED] Public Health Wales - No.
2 Capital Quarter) [REDACTED]
(Transformation Comms UKVI [REDACTED]
(Hywel Dda UHB - Director of Public Health)
(Chief Executive - Hywel Dda University
Health Board) [REDACTED]
(Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

Subject: SHARING FOR INFORMATION: COMMS on asylum seekers moving into MoD sites

Colleagues,

FYI only.

This has gone to your respective press teams but I wanted to also ensure you are sighted as it sets out the plans around comms.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
Senior Portfolio Manager - Vulnerability, Immigration and Counter Terrorism

Uwch Rheolwr Portffolio - Bregusrwydd, Mewnfudo a Gwrthderfysgaeth

Home Office Wales Team | Home Office

Tîm Cymru'r Swyddfa Gartref | Swyddfa Gartref

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 September 2020 16:35
To: [REDACTED] (Hywel Dda UHB - Communications Manager) [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: COMMS on asylum seekers moving into MoD sites

Hi all, it's [REDACTED] in Home Office Press Office
Just wanted to quickly update from our side.

- Today we have updated our factsheet <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/03/factsheet-asylum-accommodation-and-applications/>, which we will now be pointing to. This gives the specific reasons why we need to house asylum seekers while their claims are being processed and details why we are using MoD sites
- We will also be placing some targeted Facebook posts to communities with some reassurance messaging (text below)
- We have update our statement following the protest in Penally (below)
- We are looking at giving an extended quote from the Immigration minister to local media to reassure we are doing everything possible to mitigate the impact on the local community. We are just working through this now and will come back on the chain once sorted.
- We can also share the media Q&A that we have been using. Our policy colleagues are producing a stakeholder briefing, which will include significant detail on the background, context, operational decisions etc. Hopefully this will be shared asap.

Social media posts

We've been working tirelessly with the community in [Pembrokeshire/Folkestone] on plans to house asylum seekers in the area in accommodation provided by the Minister of Defence.

By law, the government has to house asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their claim is being progressed

This move will ease our reliance on hotels and provide savings for the taxpayer of up to 50 per cent.

We're doing our best to ensure that any impact on the community is minimal. This includes working with the local council, policing leaders, health professionals and accommodation providers.

We're trying to limit the use of contingency accommodation in local areas by doing all we can to process asylum claims.

Line when asked on protests in Penally

A Home Office spokesperson said:

"During these unprecedented times we have worked tirelessly with local authorities and other partners to provide asylum seekers, who would otherwise be destitute, with suitable accommodation – as we are required to do by law.

"Following detailed discussion with local authorities, some asylum seekers will now be housed in contingency accommodation in Kent and Pembrokeshire provided by the Ministry of Defence.

"We are aware of the protests which took place in Penally last night and thank the police for their handling of the situation in ensuring vehicles could enter the facility."

Further lines:

- Under the Immigration and Asylum Act the Home Secretary has a legal obligation to provide support including accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.
- As a result of the increase in Channel crossings, coupled with adherence to Government Coronavirus guidelines, which have reduced available space, the Ministry of Defence has provided two sites to the Home Office to house asylum seekers while their claims are being processed.
- This activity is related to those awaiting decisions on submitted asylum applications. These sites will not act as holding sites for migrants awaiting removal from UK.

Home Office Q&A

Why is the Home Office looking at army bases?

- In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required us in some instances to use temporary accommodation, including hotels, to fulfil or statutory obligations to house destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.
- During these unprecedented times the government is working with a range of partners and across departments to secure further accommodation and the MOD has offered use of some of its sites
- But recognising the need to continue to build capacity in the short term, whilst there remains significant pressure in the system, we have been exploring further options to accommodate asylum seekers.

How long will they be used for?

- In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required us in some instances to use temporary accommodation, including hotels, to fulfil or statutory obligations to house destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.
- This accommodation is contingency accommodation. Our ambition is to house asylum seekers within the asylum estate without the need for contingency accommodation. We are working to address the issues putting pressure on our asylum accommodation. This includes resuming support cessations, to get people moving out of accommodation when their cases are concluded, and also to continue to take steps to address illegal migration and the exploitation and organised criminality that goes with it, including the dangerous Channel crossings we have seen in recent times.

How much are you paying MoD?

- We do not routinely comment on the cost of Military Aid to the Civil Authorities cost

When will numbers in asylum accommodation go down? Aren't they going up?

- The numbers have increased over the past 6 months. This is a direct result of a decision taken at the end of March to not move people out of the asylum system. This was in line with Public Health guidance which said that people could not move house during lock down. We have also seen an unprecedented number of small boat arrivals, requiring asylum support.
- In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required us in some instances to use temporary accommodation, including hotels, to fulfil or statutory obligations to house destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.
- Ordinarily, if an asylum seeker is granted refugee status, they can work and access mainstream benefits including local authority housing assistance. If their claim is rejected, they are expected to leave the country and cannot access support, unless they cannot leave for reasons outside of their control. Ordinarily, if an asylum seeker is granted refugee status, they can work and access mainstream benefits including local authority housing assistance. If their claim is rejected, they are expected to leave the country and cannot access support, unless they cannot leave for reasons outside of their control.
- The Home Office has started cessations of support in a phased way which will reduce demand on the asylum system while prioritising the safety of those within the asylum system. This means moving people out of Home Office accommodation and ending subsistence payments from the Home Office.

Who will run the two sites?

- The MOD sites in Kent and Wales will be run by Clearsprings Ready Homes. They are a Home Office Supplier contracted to provide initial accommodation for Asylum Seekers.

Are any more MOD sites being considered?

- We are exploring with a range of partners and other government departments opportunities for further accommodation so we can uphold our statutory obligation to provide asylum seekers, who would otherwise be destitute, accommodation. Following the submission of request, the MOD and the Army have been fully supportive in trying to reach a workable solution.

Who will be housed at the Kent and Welsh bases?

- The bases will house asylum seekers who are awaiting a decision.
- We will only be accommodating single healthy adult males at the site. By doing this we free up capacity in the traditional Initial Accommodation estate for families, single women and vulnerable men.

You have been criticised for not engaging with local stakeholders?

- Whilst we are working at pace, we are committed to ensuring the accommodation and wrap around services meet the needs of those accommodated, and we take account of and mitigate risks and concerns of the wider community. This is no different to the approach we take across the UK in our use of accommodation for destitute asylum seekers, including temporary accommodation such as hotels.
- The Home Office is committed to working collaboratively with communities and stakeholders to ensure that destitute asylum seekers are provided with safe, secure and suitable accommodation while their asylum claims are considered. This includes working in partnership with local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups in England and Local Health Boards in Wales, Public Health England and Wales and the Welsh Government
- We are committed to open and transparent engagement with local authorities and we have been and remain hugely grateful for the co-operation and support received from many local authorities throughout the United Kingdom against the backdrop of the challenges Covid-19 has presented.

Will asylum seekers be given the weekly allowance?

- The MOD sites will be fully catered so the asylum seekers housed there will not receive the weekly support allowance.

What are you doing to stop far right attacks?

- Any violence or abuse directed towards asylum seekers is completely unacceptable.
- We take the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and we are taking all necessary and legal steps to protect the people in our care. All incidents at our accommodation providers are reported to the Home Office immediately, and we then work with the provider to put in additional measures if required.
- We continually review the security at asylum accommodation sites with providers, who work closely with local police to ensure action is taken if someone tries to access a site.
- Using hotels and serviced apartments as asylum accommodation temporarily is contingency option and our accommodation providers are securing longer-term accommodation to meet specific needs.
- Efforts to fuel resentment towards vulnerable people, such as asylum seekers, and create community tension is unacceptable.

Will the asylum seeker's movements outside of the site be restricted?

- The safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers and the local communities that accommodate them is of the paramount importance and we are working closely with local councils and the police to ensure everyone's safety.
- There are no restrictions on movement. All asylum seekers are given guidance on social distancing.

Are the sites COVID safe?

- We have worked with Public Health advisors throughout the coronavirus outbreak to inform a national approach, adjusted to account for local concerns. We remain in regular dialogue with public health officials.
- A wide range of measures have been implemented to ensure public health guidance is adhered to.
- The sleeping accommodation in both sites is in the form of dormitory blocks that at full capacity hold between 2 and 20 people. To comply with social distancing requirements the MOD have reduced occupancy in each dormitory to ensure a minimum distance of 2 metres between each bed.
- We have sought Public Health England/Wales advice on how we can make best use of this accommodation, working within the constraints of the configuration, whilst minimising risks from covid-19. We will follow the model which the MOD has adopted which is to continue to use the

dormitories as shared rooms but to limit occupancy ensuring a minimum distance between beds of at least 2 metres. This will be complemented by a range of additional safety measures including increased cleaning of surfaces, availability of hand sanitisers, a track and trace system and extensive communications with residents around covid-19 control measures.

What if someone shows symptoms and needs to self-isolate?

- Contractors has an outbreak management plan which will be enacted if we experience an outbreak.

How many asylum seekers will be housed at both sites?

- We anticipate 400 asylum seekers to be housed in the Kent site and 250 at the Wales site.
- We will be accommodating fewer people than configuration allows in line with social distancing requirements and public health advice.
- The sites will provide safe and secure accommodation in line with our statutory responsibility to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation.

Will this interrupt any work from the armed forces?

- There will be some disruption to scheduled training courses. We are rescheduling training and we do not foresee significant disruption to our training plans. Training will be moved to alternative sites.

What about the local community?

- The people accommodated on site will not be accommodated under any kind of detention powers however security will be provided 24/7 at the site. We are working with our contractor to ensure that all the services and support our service users need is available to them on site in order to minimise the need or desire for them to leave the site. Our contractor is also putting a range of activities in place to occupy service users during their stay.

What do asylum seekers have access to, how does it work and who provides?

- We are working on the same principle as in asylum seeker accommodation however we recognise the challenges the location of the site presents in terms of accessibility. Therefore, we are working with our contractor to identify and address and additional services we may need to put in place to address this. This work is ongoing and further updates will be provided.
- Asylum seekers will continue to have access to NGOs, who will provide additional support and welfare input. This is the same provision as provided in the rest of the asylum estate.

Wrap around services – what do asylum seekers have access to, how does it work and who provides?

- We are working on the same principle as in asylum seeker accommodation however we recognise the challenges the location of the site presents in terms of accessibility and are working with our contractor to identify and address and additional services we may need to put in place to address this. This work is ongoing and further updates will be provided.

What reassurance can we provide to the community?

- Although the speed with which this site is being mobilised is unusual we can reassure the local community that we have a robust and well established process in place for procuring and mobilising new asylum accommodation and we are following this process in this exercise. The site will be run by one of our experienced asylum accommodation contractors who will need to demonstrate that they have all the policies and procedures in place around security, safeguarding, critical incident management and health and safety that you would expect to see in such an establishment before they are given permission to operate by ourselves.

Home Office Press Office - Immigration
2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

Please note that our Newsdesk number has changed

Sent: 22 September 2020 12:25

To

The MP for the area put this out yesterday evening. It includes some info that the Health Board wasn't aware of. <https://www.simon-hart.com/news/penally-update-21-september>. Guessing he got brief from home secretary or someone from her office? Can we please be updated with any new info asap.

Appreciate,