

Reference:	FOI.5473.21
Subject:	Community Health Services
Date of Request:	1 March 2021

Requested:

1. Other than an inflationary uplift, has the Community Health Services contract or budget allocation increased, decreased, or remained the same during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financing years?
2. Does the Health Board's contact or agreement for Community Health Service specifically include the provision of care, or services, for ambulatory sensitive conditions which are designed to prevent emergency admission to hospital?
3. Is the prevention of admission to hospital with one or more ambulatory sensitive condition a specific component or target for the Board's district nursing services?
4. Has the Health Board developed services, in the last two years (2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years), which are designed to prevent admission to hospital for patients with ambulatory sensitive conditions?
5. If the answer to question 3 was yes – were these services to develop:
 - New Teams within the Community Health Services
 - Ambulatory Care in the Hospital Setting
 - Existing Community Health Services and Teams
 - Primary Care – General Practice Services
 - Other (briefly describe)

Definition of Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions: Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) are health conditions-diagnoses for which timely and effective outpatient care can help to reduce the risks of hospitalization by either preventing the onset of an illness or condition, controlling an acute episodic illness or condition, or managing a chronic disease (Sarmiento et al, 2020).

Clarified:

I am specifically interested in community health services for adults including therapies (physiotherapy and occupational therapy in the community) and district nursing services.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that the Community Health Services budget has increased during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. The table overleaf provides the percentage of the budget increases for Community Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy during the requested time period.

Percentage Base Budget increase (excluding pay awards)		
Community Health Service	2019/20	2020/21
Community Nursing	2.88%	4.08%
Physiotherapy	10.17%	5.56%
Occupational Therapy	0.64%	3.46%

2. The UHB confirms that it does not have a contract or agreement in place for Community Health Services. Community Health Services are an internal service delivered by the UHB's own Community teams.
3. The UHB confirms that its Community Nursing Service includes Specialist Chronic Condition Nurses in addition to District Nurses. All community services provide provision to reduce the risk of unnecessary admission to hospital due to an exacerbation of a chronic condition.
4. The UHB confirms that it is regularly reviewing and adapting its services to develop and build upon established teams to reduce the risk of unnecessary hospital admission for patients with ambulatory sensitive conditions.
5. The UHB confirms that the Community Nursing and District Nursing Services are working to develop existing Community Health Services and teams in place across the UHB.