

Ein cyf/Our ref: CHA.9578
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Katie Jenner
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Dyddiad/Date: 18 August 2022

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Jonathan Rose

Dear Jonathan

Re: Question submitted to Hywel Dda University Health Board's Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Thank you for your email of 21 July 2022 in which you submitted a question for consideration at the Health Board's AGM regarding the cost of living crisis and the development of a Midwifery Led Unit in Llanelli.

1. With the cost of living crisis & the deprivation already a major issue in many areas of Llanelli, what is Hywel Dda University Health Board doing to ensure the poorest can access healthcare services free of charge?

The cost of living crisis is hugely worrying and challenging, there is a clear risk to health, both physical and mental, due to the additional stresses caused, such as the reduction of disposable income for healthy food and issues heating homes and travelling.

As part of our strategy we are looking to provide as much care as close to home as possible, for example we are aiming to deliver COVID and flu vaccinations together, where possible, through our primary care partners this autumn, reducing the need multiple appointments and taking away the requirement for additional travel to mass vaccination centres.

We are working with healthy schools and pre-schools teams to identify and address issues affecting children, and implementing mitigation measures where particular issues are highlighted to us, and also with our staff to try to provide additional support where needed. We are also working on longer term solutions to try to ensure that the impact of the cost of living crisis on the health and wellbeing of our population is reduced as far as possible.

The Health Board provides some detail of free/affordable transport options on its website to support those experiencing difficulty travelling to clinical appointments and accessing services. For some transportation options there is an eligibility criteria, however there are also community and voluntary options that can be accessed via the UHB website. Further detail can be found at:

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/patient-information/patient-transport/>

The Health Board also offers free bus tickets for families with children needing to access healthcare services, the tickets can be used on the 322 bus between Glangwili General Hospital and Withybush General Hospital and the 381 service between Tenby and Glangwili General Hospital.

Tickets are available from:

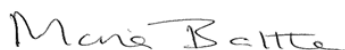
- Paediatric Ambulatory Care Units (PACUs) at Glangwili and Withybush hospitals
- Maternity Led Units (MLUs) at Glangwili and Withybush hospitals
- Cilgerran ward (children's ward) at Glangwili Hospital
- A&E departments at Glangwili and Withybush hospitals
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health teams

2. What progress has been made in the development of a midwife led maternity unit for Llanelli?

Development of a Midwifery Led Unit in Llanelli was not detailed in the Healthier Mid and West Wales strategy that gained approval in 2018; the suggested locations included in the strategy are the repurposed Withybush General Hospital and Glangwili General Hospital. Should we received approval for the new hospital, the Health Board will undertake some work to review and develop appropriate pathways; at this stage consideration may be given to the suitability and need of a Midwifery Led Unit in Llanelli.

I trust this response provides the information you were seeking, please be assured that the Health Board will continue to consider the cost of living crisis and the impact of this on our population.

Yours sincerely



Maria Battle
Chair