



Ein cyf/Our ref: CEO.12739

28 September 2023

Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:

Rhif Ffôn /Telephone:

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

Dear Angela

### Re: Questions submitted to Public Board 28 September 2023

Thank you for your email dated 29 August 2023 in which you submitted a question regarding Stroke services for response at Public Board.

*“Will you please give details of the planned timeline for local engagement and consultation with stroke survivors in the Hywel Dda area in relation to the work on the transformation of stroke services and alongside the plans that other Health Boards have in place.”*

A Business Case for a Comprehensive Regional Stroke Centre (CRSC), formally known as the HASU, has been developed via the ARCH Programme and was presented to the Strategic Development and Operational Delivery Committee (SDODC) on 26 June 2023. The complete paper detailing the business case and plan can be accessed via the Health Board's website via: [hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/board-committees/strategic-development-and-operational-delivery-committee-sdodc/sdodc-meeting-26-june-2023/item-5-5-stroke-business-case-and-assessment-of-the-stroke-pathway/](https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/board-committees/strategic-development-and-operational-delivery-committee-sdodc/sdodc-meeting-26-june-2023/item-5-5-stroke-business-case-and-assessment-of-the-stroke-pathway/).

At this stage, the Executive Team has indicated support in principle for the development of such a unit, but recognised a significant amount of work will be required between now and the unit potentially being in a position to serve Carmarthenshire residents in the future. In particular, the whole pathway will need to be considered, in order to ensure the Hywel Dda units have the staffing levels to meet national standards and support timely repatriation (the CRSC business case only focuses on the first 72 hours of the acute inpatient pathway). Due to the need to develop the workforce in Morriston Hospital through a phased approach, it is not anticipated, if the proposal was to progress, that Carmarthenshire patients would access the unit until approximately year 3, from 2026 onwards.

The current expectation is that residents of Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion will continue to receive this first 72 hours of inpatient care at Withybush General Hospital

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Cadeirydd /Chair  
**Miss Maria Battle**  
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive  
**Mr Steve Moore**

(WGH) (until the new hospital is open) and Bronglais General Hospital (BGH), due to the travel times to Morriston Hospital for these populations. 24/7 support from the CRSC could be provided via digital tele-health links.

Within the Health Board, a multi-disciplinary Task and Finish group has been convened, initially to compile a Factual Assessment of the impact on the Stroke Pathway in Carmarthenshire. Having since been completed, the Factual Assessment for Carmarthenshire specifically focuses on the staffing and associated funding required to fulfil the national expected standards of acute and rehabilitation phases of stroke care for Carmarthenshire residents. Similar assessments for Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire will now be conducted.

I am pleased to confirm new, recurrent funding of around £640,000 has been received from Welsh Government, which will be used, in part, to implement Early Supported Discharge (ESD) across all three counties. ESD has been evidenced within Stroke Pathways to improve early discharge in up to 30% of stroke patients, as well as reducing the average length of stay and subsequent demand bed utilisation for the pathway once the benefits have been realised.

The CRSC business case was also presented to Public Board on 27 July 2023; the Clinical Services Plan paper, presented by Lee Davies, Executive Director of Strategy and Planning, provides a comprehensive overview of the plan and can be accessed via:

[hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/your-health-board/board-meetings-2023/board-agenda-and-papers-27-july-2023/board-agenda-and-papers-27-july-2023/item-3-5-clinical-services-plan-update-pdf/](https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/your-health-board/board-meetings-2023/board-agenda-and-papers-27-july-2023/board-agenda-and-papers-27-july-2023/item-3-5-clinical-services-plan-update-pdf/)

The recording of the meeting is also accessible on YouTube via the link provided below. The agenda item, which provides an overview of the paper presented and a further detailed response to a question provided by Alison Shakeshaft, (Retired) Executive Director of Therapies and Life Science, who previously held operational responsibility for the Stroke service, can be watched at 2 hours 43 minutes. [Public Board Recording - 27 July 2023.](#)

At this stage, therefore, we do not currently have a specific timeline for a formal engagement or consultation process, but we will certainly be keen to hear the views of stroke survivors and those of other stakeholders as part of our planning and will engage with you on the best way to do this.

I trust this information provides a satisfactory response to your question.

Yours sincerely

**Steve Moore**  
Chief Executive