

The LMC has been part of the branch closure application process (stage 2), which has addressed the public consultation exercise, media relations, public messaging etc. This has been comprehensively handled and the population impacted by this change has been given every opportunity to make representations to the Health Board. To ensure balance in this process the case made by the practice must be carefully considering.

The practice have made the application to the Health Board and have identified a number of issues which must be considered by the panel as part of their deliberation.

- The increased patient demand, including urgent care is acknowledged, however the additional resources have not been made available to primary care to support this additional demand - consequently practices have to look for more efficient and effective ways to work. Practices must be able to review and revise their service provision to remain sustainable, this application is part of this process.
- The practice has highlighted the medical man power and sustainability issues in their application. This practice is not alone in highlighting these issues and the HB will be well aware of the problems associated with an ageing workforce and difficulties in recruitment.
- The practice need to be able to allocate its resources effectively to be benefit of ALL practice patients. The continued provision of services at Laugharne branch will reduce the practice's ability to provide the comprehensive services at the main surgery premises which are for the benefit of the whole practice population.
- The MDT model of primary care provision encourages team working and requires the provision of greater support for staff – this is undertaken most efficiently when resources are concentrated in one location. The MDT model of care is promoted by both the HB and WG as the gold standard in primary health care provision. Small branch surgeries dissipate practice resources and make the MDT model difficult.
- There are a considerable number of practice patients who travel further than the four miles from Laugharne to St Clears e.g. Trelech, Llanboidy. There is a regular and frequent bus service from Pendine, via Laugharne to St Clears (5 services a day, which accept a bus pass) to facilitate patient access to the surgery. Other areas in the practice area are not so fortunately to have a similar bus service.
- Health and Safety of its employees is very important to the practice and the lone worker provisions make continued safe provision of services in a small branch surgery both difficult and inefficient.

Almost £400,000 has been invested in improvements at the main surgery site to offer patients improved services and facilities. Recent surveys have identified that in excess of £100,000 needs to be spent to bring the branch surgery up to the expected standard

Many Thanks

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Dyfed Powys LMC