WHC (2001) 98

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales

Parc Cathays
Caerdydd CF10 3NQ

Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Issue Date: 21st November 2001
Status: Action

Title: PROPERTY SURVEYS OF GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PREMISES WITHIN WALES

For Action by: Chief Executives, Health Authorities and General Managers, Local Health Groups

Action required *See paragraph(s)* :

For Information to: Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

Sender: Mr John Morgan, Director of Health Services Division, NHS Directorate

National Assembly contact for matters of Policy: Mrs Pat Tempest, Head of Capital and Estat Branch, National Assembly for Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Welsh Health Estates Contact for Technical Advice: Nigel Davies, Head of Estate Developme Welsh Health Estates, PO Box 182, Bevan House, 25-30 Lambourne Crescent, Llanishen, Cardif CF14 5GS

Enclosure(s):

Tel: 029 20825111 GTN: 1208
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Dear Colleague

Summary

1. The purpose of this circular is to advise Health Authorities and Local Health Groups that the National Assembly for Wales has commissioned Welsh Health Estates to undertake a condition survey of all General Medical Practitioner Premises within Wales.

Background

2. Primary Care has been identified within *Improving Health in Wales – A plan for the NHS with its partners* as one of the main drivers behind the future NHS. However, very little information is collected on the extent and condition of the primary care estate.

3. The increasing role of Local Health Groups within primary care is likely to include a responsibility to produce detailed estate strategies (in partnership with other organisations) that demonstrate the following:

- A programme to ensure all primary care premises meet minimum accepted standards;
- Opportunities are taken to reduce overlap and duplication of service environments;
- Where new premises are being developed or refurbishment is taking place the environmental impact of NHS building is minimised and opportunities for cost efficiency are maximised;
- The development of primary care resource centres as part of the new NHS landscape;
- Where possible, disparate services are brought together;
- Opportunities for re-providing certain hospital services in local settings;
- Plans, where feasible, for primary care services to share facilities eg community hospitals, social services;
- new developments in the information and information technology infrastructure.

4. Delivering these objectives is a major task for Local Health Groups and Health Authorities. The development of integrated health strategies needs to be underpinned by a robust and systematic process and ensuring consistency in data collection and analysis allows comparisons and benchmarking to take place.

5. The Assembly considers that commissioning these surveys would have the following benefits:

- Consistency of Data Collection;
- Economies of scale;

- A clear programme for the completion of all survey work could be established;
- Quality control of the process;
- All Local Health Groups would be provided with sufficient baseline information on the primary care estate to enable local integrated health strategies to be developed;
- A network would be established between the centre and the Local Health Groups for the transfer of the initial survey information and protocols established to ensure that data updates undertaken by Local Health Groups would be provided to the NAfW. This will assist in the promotion of a more open and transparent relationship between the NAfW and Local Health Groups;
- The Estate date set for primary care premises is a powerful tool for the NAfW to help in the development and co-ordination of national strategies, particularly when considered with the secondary and tertiary estate.

6. Welsh Health Estates will undertake these surveys on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales.

7. Health Authorities and Local Health Groups are required to complete the attached proforma and return to Welsh Health Estates.

8. Welsh Health Estates will issue detailed procedures and guidance documentation regarding the surveys during December 2001.

9. Any technical queries concerning this letter should be addressed to:

Mr N J Davies
Head of Estate Development
Welsh Health Estates
PO Box 182, Bevan House
25-30 Lambourne Crescent
Llanishen
Cardiff CF14 5GS

Tel: 029 2031 5543

10. Matters of policy should be directed to:-

Mrs Pat Tempest
Head of Capital and Estates Branch
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Tel: 029 2082 5695

Translation of this Circular into Welsh

11. A Welsh translation of this WHC will be issued shortly.

Yours sincerely

JOHN D MORGAN
Director, Health Services Division
NHS Directorate

Please provide contact details of the Health Authority's/Local Health Group's GP Premises estates condition survey representative.

Contact Name :- .....

Position :- .....

Address :- .....

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Telephone No. :- .....

Fascimile No. :- .....

e-mail address :- .....

The above information should be forwarded by **14 December 2001** to:-

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