LLANDUDNO HOSPITAL PROJECT

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AT FOURTH MEETING OF THE
STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE GROUP TO DISCUSS THE
DRAFT SERVICES AND ESTATES STRATEGY FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF LLANDUDNO HOSPITAL

WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2010

Discussion With and Issues Raised By The Stakeholder Reference Group regarding the draft services and estates strategy for the development of Llandudno Hospital at the fourth meeting of the Stakeholder Reference Group meeting on 6th October 2010.

Ellen Greer gave a presentation on the key recommendations for the development of the Llandudno hospital site contained in the draft strategy. She provided an outline of the proposed timetable for the development of the hospital site, together with an overview of the capital investment required. The capital associated revenue required were also highlighted. Reference was also made to a number of service reviews underway across North Wales.

Questions/Issues Raised During/After Presentation

- (Chris Sweetnam, Conwy Long Term Conditions Group): Noted that he is pleased that, following the last meeting of the Stakeholder Reference Group, alternative plans are now being discussed for the provision of hydrotherapy.
- (Dr Neil McKenzie, Conwy Churches Together and service user, Conwy Voluntary Services Council): Requested clarity regarding the ‘potential’ to develop a Stroke Rehabilitation Unit at Llandudno hospital and the plans to bring this into operation. Neil Bradshaw (Director of Planning) noted that the plans were ‘potential’ as there are a number of service reviews underway across North Wales, together with the North Wales Neurosciences review, which may influence the development of services at Llandudno hospital over time. Ellen Greer also noted that plans are underway to relocate the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit from the HM Stanley site to an alternative local facility to ensure that the delivery of routine stroke rehabilitation remained local within that vicinity. It would thus be unlikely that the relocation of services from HM Stanley hospital would be to Llandudno hospital. Stroke rehabilitation services for the residents of the Llandudno area would continue to be provided at Llandudno hospital.
(Dr Neil McKenzie): Queried whether the present Stroke rehabilitation service at Llandudno hospital would decrease or remain the same. Dr John Hindle (Clinical Lead, Rehabilitation project team) stated that all stroke rehabilitation patients, including some complex cases, from the Llandudno area were already admitted to Llandudno hospital and this would continue. He noted that the proposal contained in the draft strategy to develop an ABI inpatient unit on the hospital site would provide for approximately 15 ABI cases and 5 specialist stroke cases with care needs similar to those of ABI patients.

(David Owen, Member, Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council): Commented that the words ‘potential’, ‘may’ and ‘proposed’ were used in the draft strategy and that, together with a degree of uncertainty created by the service reviews underway across North Wales, does not give a complete picture of the future role for the hospital and that the Minister may thus find the strategy less than clear. Neil Bradshaw responded that it was not feasible and would create further delay to wait until everything is known and exact. He suggested that planning is always done within the context of uncertainties, but that the draft strategy contained a combination of service developments that will happen, those that will not take place, and those that may take place depending on the outcomes of the service reviews. He added that the timetable for development is ambitious over a period of some 5 years but that this retains momentum.

(David Owen): Added that there is concern that there appears to have been a gradual reduction in services provided at Llandudno hospital over the last four years. He referred to outpatient services, suggesting that over 212,000 people from the Llandudno area had been attending clinics in YGC/YG over the last 4 years and was concerned that there had been no development of outpatient services in Llandudno hospital during this time.

(Sue Woods, Outpatients Sister, Llandudno Hospital): Queried the timescales for the various service reviews that are underway across North Wales, suggesting that these are causing a lot of staff uncertainty. Neil Bradshaw responded by noting that most of the reviews would report by the end of November. He noted that if significant issues were to arise from these reviews, they may then more time to complete their work but that this would be in terms of months and not years. It was also noted that the review of outpatient services across North Wales was still at a very early stage and would report later than the other reviews.

(Chris Jones, PPI Lead, Conwy and Denbighshire, Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council); Queried whether the reviews of Emergency Surgery, Endoscopy and other reviews would be ready in time to report to the Llandudno Project Board meeting on 2nd November. Neil Bradshaw
noted that some reviews will not affect Llandudno hospital such as the review for Orthopaedics. He also re-iterated that the draft strategy includes a combination of definite developments and potential developments (and also recommendations not being taken forward) based on current information. He added that the Project Board will continue to meet and can thus consider the outcomes of the service reviews and how these may impact on the future development of Llandudno hospital.

- (Marianne Mole, Sister, Theatres, Llandudno hospital): Expressed concerns regarding current services for endoscopy at the hospital, noting that there appeared to be discussions regarding the potential relocation of the service to YGC/YG. She also suggested that no patients were being booked for their procedures at Llandudno hospital from 1st November. Neil Bradshaw noted that there had been no agreement to cease endoscopy at Llandudno hospital but was aware of plans to temporarily reduce the service to 3 days a week in light of operational difficulties. He agreed to ensure that clarity was provided to staff regarding temporary operational changes. He added that the draft strategy made allowance for an expanded endoscopy facility and that the future provision of endoscopy at the hospital would be informed by the review of Gastroenterology across North Wales.

- (Mr Simon Leeson, Clinical Lead, Women’s Health Project Team): Queried whether assurance could be given that the proposed co-location of symptomatic and diagnostic breast services on the hospital site would ‘fit’ with the timetable for the implementation of digital mammography by Breast Test Wales. Andrew Williams (Head of Estates Development) confirmed that he had discussed this with Breast Test Wales and that the project timescales, as set out in the construction forecast in the draft strategy, were broadly in line with the plans of Breast Test Wales.

- (Lindsay Pearce, Hospital Action Group): Asked for re-assurance that following the recent closure of the MIU overnight, individuals turning up at the MIU after this time would be able to receive advice if required. Angela Howarth (Site Manager, Llandudno hospital) responded that staff in the MIU were mindful of this and checked to ensure that people turning up had seen the information provided and would assist people if this appeared to be needed. She noted that as the revised hours for the MIU were becoming better known, the number of people arriving at the MIU after 10pm were reducing. She noted that although the MIU closed at 10pm, staff were around after this time to monitor if patients require assistance.

- (Barry Broadmeadow, Mental Health Service User): Commented that in view of the demography of the Llandudno area and the fact that it is a tourist area, one could not be complacent about the provision of MIU services. Neil Bradshaw re-assured that there was no complacency and that the changes to the MIU had been made on the basis of evidence and
considerable discussion and debate. He noted that the evidence showed that there was little demand for the MIU overnight. Sister Lyn Roberts emphasised that the unit is a minor injury unit and not a casualty or an A and E. She stressed the need to communicate this to the general public on an ongoing basis.

- (Dr Neil McKenzie): Queried whether there is a potential for ‘bottlenecks’ to occur on the hospital site, creating access problems both in and out of the hospital site during the construction phases. Andrew Williams responded that discussions will now be held with planners in the local authority to discuss means of ensuring access to the hospital site was not affected, this perhaps requiring some work at the junction of the road leading into the hospital for which costings had been included within the overall capital costs. He added that also included in the draft strategy is the creation of additional car parking at the back of the hospital site. He affirmed that robust traffic management will be needed to ensure site safety.

- (David Owen): Queried how the absence of surgical medical cover overnight at Llandudno hospital, except for breast services, would impact on care provided. Dr Brian Tehan (Clinical Lead, Elective Treatment and Diagnostics Project Team) explained that consultant cover for breast surgery patients would be provided by breast surgeons. He noted that there is increasing specialisation amongst surgeons and that increasingly, breast surgeons do not take part in the general surgery oncall rota. He noted that in terms of resident medical cover, there had been recruitment difficulties at middle grade/register level, leading to a reliance on the resident medical staff in other specialities to provide cross cover. It was also noted that the breast surgery undertaken at Llandudno hospital was risk assessed, with patients considered by the surgeon to be at a low risk of complication operated on at Llandudno hospital. Dr John Hindle added that the junior medical cover at the hospital would continue to cover all beds.

- (Alun Davies, Chief Executive, St David’s Hospice): Queried the implications for anaesthetic cover for providing services at the Llandudno hospital site. Dr Brian Tehan emphasised the importance of the pre-operative anaesthetic assessment in determining the most suitable hospital site for the patient to receive their surgery. Mr Simon Leeson added that with the development of a women’s centre at Llandudno hospital, the intention would be to develop a lead in breast surgical services at the hospital.
Issues Raised During 14 day feedback period following Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting

A letter has been received by Neil Bradshaw from David Owen (Betsi Cadwaladr CHC) seeking re-assurance that the development of Llandudno hospital will proceed. Mr Bradshaw will send direct reply to Mr Owen.