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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Update

March 2010

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Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of Update. This publication provides the latest news and developments at the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. Further information is available on the BC UHB website www.bcu.wales.nhs.uk

For further information please contact Trystan Pritchard, who will direct your correspondence to the relevant member of staff or department: trystan.pritchard@wales.nhs.uk

Developments

Appointments

Executive Director of Public Health

Since the last edition of Update in December 2009, the Health Board has welcomed Andrew Jones as Executive Director of Public Health. Andrew joins us from Public Health Wales where he was previously Regional Director. He has also worked at a senior level within local government in Wales.

Mary Burrows, Chief Executive said: “We are delighted to welcome Andrew to the Health Board. He will bring considerable expertise to assist in reducing inequalities and improving the health of the population.”

Trade Union Member of the BCU Board

Jenie Dean has been appointed as the Trade Union Non-Officer on the BC UHB Board. A midwife with 33 years nursing and midwifery experience, Jenie is a member of the Royal College of Midwives and has been a union representative since 1993. She has held various trade union elected roles since 2002 and was a Board member of the former North West Wales NHS Trust.

Confirmation of Board Champions

Individual Independent Members of the BC UHB Board have been identified as Board Champions as follows:

- Cleanliness and Infection Control – Mr Michael Williams
 - Children (up to age 18) – Mr Keith McDonogh
 - Young people (aged 18 and above) – Dr Chris Tillson
 - Design Champion – Dr Chris Tillson
 - Welsh Language – Rev Hywel Davies
 - Older People – Dr Lyndon Miles (as vice-Chair, Dr Miles is also mental health independent lead)
 - Complaints – Mr Harri Owen-Jones
 - Public and Patient Involvement – Mrs Hilary Stevens
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New Wrexham Mental Health Unit to open

The new Older Persons Mental Health Unit at Wrexham Maelor Hospital is due to welcome its first patients on 22nd February when the Helyg Day Hospital Service moves into the new building.

This will be followed by the transfer of the wards on 1st March.

Work started on the unit just over a year ago as part of a £21.3 million project to provide new mental health inpatient facilities for both adults and older persons on the site. The adult unit is due for completion in late 2010.

Service users and staff have played a major part in drawing up the design of the new facilities. As well as providing an enhanced environment, the new unit will allow new approaches to mental health care to be introduced.

News from Ysbyty Alltwen

First patients receive dialysis at Ysbyty Alltwen

A temporary dialysis unit has been opened at Ysbyty Alltwen near Porthmadog as the first step in providing a permanent satellite renal unit to serve Dwyfor and North Meirionnydd. The temporary unit is housed within Ysbyty Alltwen as an interim solution while a permanent unit is built on the site.

The permanent unit is currently in the planning stages and a contractor is expected to be appointed soon so that construction work can begin. The unit is expected to be completed in the autumn of 2011.

The temporary unit houses seven dialysis stations and will be located within the main Ysbyty Alltwen building. Eleven local patients have been identified as suitable for receiving dialysis three times a week at the unit.

Funding announced for outdoor fitness trails for Ysbyty Alltwen

Health Minister Edwina Hart has announced almost £25,000 of funding to install fitness trails in the grounds of Ysbyty Alltwen. The outdoor scheme is being piloted at Ysbyty Alltwen, Tremadog to promote healthy lifestyles to NHS staff. The trails will be made-up of five or six fitness stations which will each have a different piece of equipment such as a cross trainer or Tai Chi spinner.

Michael Williams, Chairman of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, said: "We are delighted to be a pilot site for this initiative. The health and wellbeing of our staff is very important to us and the ability to engage in physical exercise close to the workplace will be highly beneficial."

New integrated health and social care centre opened in Llanrwst

Canolfan Crwst was opened in Llanrwst on the old School Bank Road former secondary school site in January. It is a joint development between Conwy County Borough Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board reflecting their strengthening working partnership.

This new health and social care centre will replace the current health clinic in Llanrwst. It will complement the other new services on the School Bank Road campus, in particular the Hafan Gwydir Extra Care Housing Scheme and the new GP surgery planned to open in the summer of 2010.

Canolfan Crwst will provide a convenient local single point of access to an expanded range of health and social care services for Conwy's rural communities and will reduce the need to travel for care where possible.

It is hoped that the provision of shared accommodation for health and social staff will foster integrated working with a view to streamlining patient care. An enhanced range of community health services will be provided from Canolfan Crwst including District Nursing, Health Visiting, Young People's Health Advisers, Midwifery, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Orthotics, Adult & Older People's Mental Health Services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The centre will also provide a base for Social Work and Home Care teams.

Performance

Financial Position and Cost Improvement

Although the Health Board has a budget of £1.2billion, the largest NHS budget in Wales, the financial challenges are unprecedented both today and looking into the future.

This is due to many reasons including the economic uncertainty, the predicted reduction in investment and the need to address the imbalance between the demand on services and the availability of care. Work needs to continue at a faster pace, to develop savings plans at every level and within every part of the organisation to ensure that we can continue to deliver safe and sustainable services provided by a skilled and competent workforce.

Planning for the future

Current Consultations

Welsh Language Scheme Consultation

The Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board draft Welsh Language Scheme is now open to a public consultation at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/42508>

Single Equality and Human Rights Equality Scheme Consultation

Now open on the Health Board website at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/42094>

Your views and comments are most welcome.

Localities – An important step forward

As part of the organisational arrangements for the Health Board, locality working is being developed, led by the Primary, Community and Specialist Medicine Clinical Programme Group.

Approval has now been given for the recruitment of a GP clinical lead for each of the 14 localities across North Wales. They will be supported to develop wider locality leadership teams under the direction of the Primary and Community Services Implementation Board which is chaired by Dr Lyndon Miles (vice-Chair, BC UHB).

The GP clinical leads will also provide input into CPG boards, ensuring primary care and localities are engaged and connected. This is an important step forward in realising the ambition of clinical leadership and engagement.

Future of Llandudno General Hospital

The Llandudno Hospital Project Board continues working on taking forward recommendations for the development of services at the hospital. A well-attended stakeholder event was held on 9th February at Venue Cymru to provide an update on the work being carried out by the project teams.

All project teams include representation from a range of local stakeholders including Community Health Council, Llandudno Hospital Action Group, the voluntary sector and elected members.

The initial stage of the project is scheduled for completion in August when a clear plan for future services at the hospital will be presented to the Project Board. Whilst it would be possible to implement some recommendations more quickly than others, the project aims to develop long term services for the future which will be implemented over a number of years.

North Wales Clinical Service Strategy – The Hospital Element of Unscheduled Care

The BCU HB Board of Directors has agreed that an evolutionary approach will be adopted to the development of the hospital element of unscheduled care across North Wales. This will entail substantial service re-design, and will include the following elements:

1. There will be a move to a Consultant and GP-delivered service, with a reduced reliance on trainee medical staff. This will require parallel system investment in both GPs and Consultants.
 2. Specifically, Emergency Medicine across North Wales will move to a Consultant-delivered model of care.
 3. There will be substantial role and workforce redesign, including extending the role of nurses and other health professions in delivering unscheduled care.
 4. There will be a greater emphasis on, and investment in, services provided in the community and closer to home. This will reduce the acute bed base over time.
 5. Further work will be undertaken on the interface with the Ambulance Service.
 6. The three main District General Hospital sites in North Wales will continue to provide a full A&E service. Within this context the model of care will continue to evolve. For example:
 - There is good evidence that existing clinical networking arrangements (e.g. vascular) are working well and there will be an expansion in clinical networking across North Wales in the future
 - There will also be greater sub-specialisation and the potential for developing more tertiary services in North Wales
 - There are advantages to the separate streaming of emergency and elective work and the implementation of this approach across North Wales will be explored further
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Strategic Health Alliance for Research and Education (SHARE)

In December 2008, Bangor and Cardiff Universities announced plans to work together and in partnership with the NHS in Wales across areas of mutual interest in health-related disciplines and medicine under the aegis of SHARE.

Over time, SHARE will develop and lead to strategic change in how health related research and education is managed and undertaken at both institutions in collaboration with key NHS stakeholders.

This document provides a comprehensive overview of the proposal: [Strategic Health Alliance for Research and Education; The Vision - April 2009](#)

Bangor and Cardiff Universities have applied to undertake a detailed option analysis and develop a robust business plan for the implementation of SHARE. In order to plan effectively for the future of medical education in North Wales, a request has been submitted for a two year extension to the current North Wales Clinical School grant to ensure continuity during the transition period.

CCTV Pilot in the Emergency Department at Ysbyty Gwynedd

In early 2009, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) announced a centrally funded one year pilot to evaluate the use of CCTV in Emergency Departments. One hospital in each of the four Police force areas within Wales has been selected to participate. Ysbyty Gwynedd is the site selected within the North Wales Police Force area and the new equipment is now operational.

The purpose of the pilot is to act as a deterrent against incidents of violence and aggression against staff. The system will also gather data and capture evidence as an aid to prosecuting offenders.

A great deal of consultation has taken place with Legal, Data Protection and Staff Side organisations to ensure the scope and use of the proposed systems is within the law and meets the needs of all stakeholders. To read more about the project, click on the following link:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=836&pid=31819#031209c>

Funding for new lab and equipment to treat kidney patients in North Wales

Health Minister Edwina Hart has announced that a new laboratory that will be used in the treatment and care of kidney dialysis patients in North West Wales will be developed at Ysbyty Gwynedd.

The new Vascular Laboratory will help identify suitable veins and arteries in a patient's arm for creating and renewing access for haemodialysis. New equipment will also be available at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, and Wrexham Maelor Hospital to support ongoing treatment for kidney patients. The equipment will include portable ultrasound, blood flow and cardiac monitors and plasma exchange machines.

Achievements

New Years Honours For BCU Staff

Two Health Board staff were awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours list. Jane Eryl Jones, recently retired Senior Nurse at Ysbyty Eryri, Caernarfon was awarded the MBE for services to nursing. A nurse for over 40 years, she was known for her total commitment to her patients and served at Bangor's former C&A Hospital before moving to Ysbyty Eryri.

Robin Jones, an Out of Hours Co-ordinator in Gwynedd was presented with the MBE for his services to the Army Cadet Force over 40 years. Robin became an instructor with the Cadets in 1965 and progressed to the rank of Major. Last year, Robin was also presented with a special award by the Poppy Appeal for 30 years of service in helping to raise money for the country's ex-servicemen.

Many congratulations to Jane Eryl and Robin!

Abergele CAMHS Unit wins UK Construction Award

The CAMHS Unit at Abergele has won a prestigious UK construction industry award for Health and Safety. The award was presented to Laing O'Rourke who worked in partnership with Health Board staff in both design and build of the project.

It is the first project in Wales completed under the Designed for Life: Building for Wales framework which is based on Integrated Supply Chains, Collaborative Working and Continual Improvement. More information is available via the following links:

<http://www.constructingexcellence.org.uk/>

<http://www.constructingexcellence.org.uk/news/article.jsp?id=10925>

Good Practice status awarded to Orthopaedics

Orthopaedic preoperative assessment has been awarded good practice status by the Welsh Assembly, suggesting that all Health Boards in Wales should follow the good example being set by the orthopaedic team in relation to service redesign, patient service and care provision.

The new Orthopaedic process has transformed the way in which orthopaedic patients are assessed and brought in for surgery. Two specialist Orthopaedic Nurse Practitioners with specialist skills including clinical examination and anaesthetic assessments, two preoperative assessment nurses and two health care assistants now see patients listed for surgery in clinics in Abergele, Glan Clwyd, Denbigh, Ruthin and Colwyn Bay hospitals. Patients who are appropriate to receive surgery are now clearly identified enabling a more efficient, effective and patient centred process. Patients who need further tests or investigations have a named nurse for support with anaesthetic input, aiding a safe, yet rapid, transition through the surgical process.

A new hip and knee patient education group (PEG) was also established by the physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments to allow patients the chance to discuss their rehabilitation following surgery.

And the improvements will not stop there. There are plans to develop day surgery practice and admission on the day for hip and knee patients, all developments, which will lead to a more efficient service for the benefits of our patients.

Double success for North Wales Radiographers

The annual Radiography Awards 2009 recognise the hard work and achievements of radiographers working across the UK. This year two of the prizes were awarded to an individual and a team in North Wales

The award for the Welsh Radiographer of the year went to Radiotherapy Radiographer Pat Evans. Pat is a Clinical Lecture and Superintendent Radiographer at the North Wales Cancer Centre. She was part of the original team who set up the service at the Cancer Centre in 2000 and was nominated for her high standards of patient care and exceptional support that she gives visiting students. Our congratulations to Pat on her achievement and much deserved recognition for her hard work and dedication to radiotherapy.

The Welsh team of the year was awarded to the Diagnostic Clinical Tutors from Bangor University who were praised for their excellent support for students in the clinical setting.

Conwy GP Scoops Award GP of the Year Award

Dr Ian Williams of Meddygfa Gyffin, Conwy has been named GP of the Year 2009 by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

The Award recognises excellence in General Practice and celebrates the outstanding contribution of GPs and Practice Teams across Wales. 'GP of the Year' is a patient nominated award which allows patients to nominate their GP in their own words. Dr Williams' patient said:

"Being a great doctor is more than giving out pills, it's helping people live and feel good about themselves. I am alive because of the care I received from Dr Williams – he helped me change my life and now I can see a future"

Dr Gwynfor Evans also of Meddygfa Gyffin, Conwy was named as the runner-up.

Congratulations to both Dr Williams and Dr Evans.

Wrexham Cancer Information Centre Wins First National Award

The Macmillan Shooting Star Information Centre at Wrexham Maelor Hospital has been selected as one of the first sites to be awarded the new Macmillan Quality Environment Mark.

The award was developed in collaboration with people living with cancer and stakeholders including the Department of Health and is designed to recognise building and service excellence for patients with cancer, and indicates that the facility offers the very highest standards.

Macmillan commissioned external assessors from Det Norske Veritas Healthcare UK to review sites across the UK that offer services to patients with cancer. The assessment teams included both technical experts and patient representatives. As well as looking at the quality of the environment that is provided for patients, they also looked at the services and support that were provided.

The Information Centre at Wrexham was a joint venture between the Hospital, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Shooting Star Appeal, which also funded the construction of the Shooting Star Unit at the Hospital.
