Welcome to the first edition of Mid Wales Matters – The official newsletter for the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative (MWHC).

The ‘Mid Wales Healthcare Study’, published in October 2014, highlighted a number of issues and twelve recommendations were made to ensure healthcare services in mid Wales are effective for the population. One of the recommendations made was that a joint governance mechanism, ‘The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative’, should be established in order to implement many of the other recommendations made in the report.

The MWHC is chaired by two Independent co-Chairs who were appointed by the Minister for Health and Social Services. Dr Sue Fish is the Clinical Programme Director and has overall responsibility for leading and co-ordinating the work of the Collaborative. The MWHC works with providers and communities to plan and deliver safe, sustainable, high quality and accessible healthcare in rural Mid Wales.

We will work with Powys Teaching Healthboard, Hywel Dda University Healthboard, Betsi Cadwaladr University Healthboard and The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust to ensure integrated healthcare services for the people of Mid Wales. Central to this will be innovative ways of working through new models of care. The MWHC will identify and prioritise work in relation to:

- Pathways for more advanced care to meet the needs of people in Mid Wales, enhancing the strategic role of Bronglais General Hospital as a Rural General Hospital
- Staff and Service in Primary and Community Care including Community Hospitals
- Academic research, post-graduate education and professional skills development to support the delivery of rural healthcare
- Recruitment and retention of appropriately skilled staff to work in Primary Care, the Community and Bronglais General Hospital
Independent Co-Chairs

Mr Jack Evershed was previously Chair of the Wales Board of Community Health Councils and as a leading member of the ‘Aber Group’ campaigned to retain services at Bronglais Hospital for many years. He is an acute observer of health policy and has an interest in governance issues. Mr Evershed brings a wealth of relevant skills and experience, with particular strength in engaging with, understanding and influencing local dynamics and communities.

With a professional background in medicine, Dr Ruth Hall practised as a public health consultant in North Wales from 1990 with specialist interest in environmental health, before appointment as Chief Medical Officer for Wales (1997 -2005). Ruth was a non-executive director of the Environment Agency from 2005 - 2012 and was an expert member of Ofwat's Future Regulation Advisory Panel from 2009 - 12. She serves on the Public Health Advisory Committee of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and holds a visiting Chair at the University of the West of England. Ruth is also a member of Glandwr Cymru, the Canal and River Trust's All Wales Partnership and is a Governor of the new Public Policy Institute for Wales hosted by Cardiff University. Ruth is part of the Communities Board Group, Remuneration Committee Member and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Member within NRW.

Clinical Programme Director

Along with her role for the collaborative, Dr Fish is a practicing GP in Borth Surgery, with a specialist interest in dermatology. She set up a community based dermatology service and tele-dermatology service including a telemedicine clinic between Bronglais General Hospital and Glangwili General Hospital. She was previously the Medical Director for Hywel Dda University Health Board and is a member of the Royal College of Physicians. Dr Fish has a keen interest in rural health issues and the use of information technology to improve access and delivery of healthcare services in a rural area. Dr Fish is also interested in academic research, training and development and the education of doctors and other health care professionals to provide services to a rural population.
The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative Board

The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative Planning and Co-ordination Group

Tele-health and Innovation sub-group

Palliative care / End of Life sub-group

Mental Health & LD sub-group

Primary care and Community services sub-group

General Surgery, Cardiology, Cancer, Obstetrics and Gynaecology services – Bronglais Hospital sub-group

Workforce, Education, training and Research sub-group

Access and Transport sub-group

Communications and engagement sub-group

Innovation sub-groups are now in the process of being established. Their work will be vital in progressing the implementation of the recommendations contained within the Mid Wales Healthcare Study.
Quick Wins / Short Term Actions
A number of short term actions have been identified in order to improve the quality and safety of healthcare for the population of Mid Wales. These are issues that have been identified which can be addressed immediately:

- **Powys Consultant Geriatrician post**
  Difficulty recruiting to stand alone consultant geriatricians in Powys.

- **Inability to share diagnostic information electronically**
  Inability to share diagnostic information between individual Health Boards due to the current national IT infrastructure. This results in delays to diagnosis and treatment of patients and results in repetition of tests.

- **Transport**
  There is a mismatch between the times of the transport links between South Gwynedd, North Powys and Bronglais General Hospital and the times of out-patient appointments.

- **Recruitment to 6 Consultant posts at Bronglais General Hospital currently filled with locums**
  These posts are:
  - Respiratory
  - Oncology
  - Haematology
  - General Surgery
  - Urology
  - Geriatrician

- **Develop a joint Consultant Geriatrician post between HDUHB and PthB**

- **Review current transport arrangements between South Gwynedd, North Powys and Bronglais General Hospital in conjunction with the timing of appointments offered at Bronglais General Hospital in order to ensure patients are offered appointment times which are aligned to suitable transport alternatives**

- **Liaise with the NHS Wales Informatics Service to resolve infrastructure and Caldicott Guardian issues**

- **Establishment of a 7 day a week service at Bronglais General**

- **Elective Plans for Orthopaedics**

- **Ensure Substantive appointments are made to these 6 Consultant posts**
Hospice at home arrangements in Ceredigion

Establish Hospice at Home service for the residents of Ceredigion

Local Senior leadership at Bronglais General Hospital

Implement local senior leadership model at Bronglais General Hospital for a manager, doctor and a nurse

Colorectal surgery at Bronglais General Hospital
Colorectal surgery is currently not being undertaken at Bronglais General Hospital

Undertake review to ascertain what is required to reinstate colorectal surgery at Bronglais General Hospital

Pacemaker service
Patients have to travel out of Mid Wales for an annual check of their pacemaker

Undertake a review to ascertain the feasibility of introducing an annual pacemaker check service which can be provided by tele-health links at Bronglais General Hospital

Nursing staff vacancies at Bronglais General Hospital

Recruit additional new nursing staff to Bronglais General Hospital

Current bed complement at Bronglais General Hospital is too low

Provide an additional 15 beds at Bronglais General Hospital

Difficulty recruiting to a second cardiology post at Bronglais General Hospital.

Explore the opportunities to expand the cardiology service delivered from Bronglais General Hospital to service the Mid Wales Region.

Challenge of providing an extra 15 beds at Bronglais General Hospital.
A workshop has been arranged with senior leaders and academics to prioritise the actions required to deliver recommendation 12 of *The Mid Wales Healthcare Study*, commissioned by the Minister for Health and Social Care, Mark Drakeford. Professor Longley’s study states that “The three Health Boards, working with local universities and others, should develop and support a **centre of excellence in rural healthcare**, with a particular focus on research, development and dissemination of evidence in health service research which addresses the particular challenges of Mid Wales. This has great potential to carry out work of relevance internationally”.

The one day workshop will be held on Friday 31st July and is designed to support the development of innovative solutions to the issues surrounding education, research, training and recruitment throughout Mid Wales and to provide new insight into the potential cultural, societal and economic value of providing a Centre of Excellence in Rural Healthcare in Mid Wales. Throughout this workshop we hope to foster cross-disciplinary and collaborative approaches.

We have invited a representative from various Universities, Professional Bodies and Health Boards in order to progress ideas and bring thoughts as to how a Centre for Rural Excellence can be achieved.

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**Communication and Engagement**

A series of public and staff events will be held in the region during September/early October to listen to what our stakeholders are telling us and to build the Collaborative’s Communications and Engagement Framework based on the feedback received. Dr Ruth Hall, Independent co-chair, said “Both myself and Jack Evershed are pleased that there continues to be a high level of public interest in the work of the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative. We want as many people as possible to tell us how they want to be involved in the Collaborative’s work and they can do this either through the events that will be held in September and October 2015 or by contacting the Collaborative team either at [mwhc@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:mwhc@wales.nhs.uk) or at The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative Office, Management Offices, Bronglais General Hospital, Caradog Road, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1ER.

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**MWHC Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative Board will be held at 10.00am on Monday 21st September at the Morlan Centre, Queen’s Road, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2HH. Members of the public are welcome to attend to observe the meeting. The independent co-chairs of the collaborative will be available both before and after the meeting to discuss any issues that members of the public would like to raise.
In order to take this work forward, a team is in place to help drive and facilitate this and they are:

**Supporting Team**

- **Nia Williams – Project Manager (Hywel Dda University Health Board)**

  Nia works for the Chief Executive Department based in Carmarthen 3 days a week as well as working on the Collaborative based in Bronglais for 2 days a week. Nia leads on supporting the Collaborative Board and Planning and Co-ordination Group and also provides project management support to the Collaborative.

  [Nia.Williams17@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Nia.Williams17@wales.nhs.uk) - Phone: 01267 239586 Mobile: 07584 265121

- **Gina Williams – Project Manager**

  Gina is based at Aberaeron Community Hospital but also works out of Bronglais twice a week and works full time on the Collaborative. Her role is to provide project management support and facilitation to the Innovation sub-groups and ensure collaboration working across the Health Boards and Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust. Gina also supports the Workforce, Education, Training and Research Innovation sub-group.

  [Gina.Williams2@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Gina.Williams2@wales.nhs.uk) – Phone 01267 613920 Mobile 07969 850299

- **Claire Davies – Graduate Management Trainee (Hywel Dda University Health Board)**

  Claire is based at Bronglais General Hospital and has been assigned to work on the Collaborative as part of her management training. Claire provides support for the Bronglais General Hospital Innovation sub-group and has a special interest in Patient Experience and communication.

  [Claire.Davies22@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Claire.Davies22@wales.nhs.uk) – Phone 01970 635731

- **Emma Brooke – PA to Dr Sue Fish Clinical Programme Director and The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative Independent co-chairs**

  Emma is based at Bronglais General Hospital and works on the Collaborative full time. Emma provides administrative support to Dr Fish and the Independent co-chairs as well as the team. Emma will also be looking after the Social Media portfolio.

  [Emma.Brooke@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Emma.Brooke@wales.nhs.uk) – Phone 01970 635819
**Facebook**

We are pleased to announce that we have recently launched our new Facebook page. This page is how we will be keeping staff and the public updated with the progress of the work we are doing as well as sharing good news stories, promoting services and recognising the achievements of the hard working staff in healthcare. It is also another way for you contact us with anything you think we need to know.

Like at Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative

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**Drop Box for communication**

We welcome your ideas, suggestions, opinions, good news stories and any general queries regarding this exciting new opportunity to develop health services in rural Mid Wales. You can contact any member of the team in either Welsh or English. As well as our direct email addresses we also have a generic team ‘drop box’ email which is – mwhc@wales.nhs.uk

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**Website**

For more information and details about the Collaborative you can visit our website. Here you will also find the papers for the previous Board meetings as well as details of up and coming meetings and events.

www.wales.nhs.uk/midwalescollaborative
www.cymru.nhs.uk/grwpcydweithredolcanolbarth