



# Cyngor Gwledig LLANELLI Rural Council

*Clerc i'r Cyngor*  
**Mark Galbraith** A.C.I.S.  
*Clerk to the Council*

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*Fy nghyf:*  
*My ref:* C/KPH

*Eich cyf:*  
*Your ref:*

*Gofynnwch am:*  
*Please ask for:*

31 October 2012

Mr A. Warlow  
Chief Officer  
Hywel Dda Community Health Council  
Suite 1, Cedar Court  
Havens Head  
Milford Haven  
Pembrokeshire  
SA73 3LS

Dear Mr Warlow

## **YOUR HEALTH YOUR FUTURE – CONSULTING OUR COMMUNITIES CONSULTATION ON HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN HYWEL DDA HEALTH BOARD**

I refer to Hywel Dda Health Board's consultation process which ended on 29 October 2012. I also refer to previous Council correspondence and email communications to the Community Health Council (CHC).

Please find enclosed a full copy of the Council's consultation response which comprises:

- (1) A copy letter sent to Mr T. Purt, Chief Executive, Hywel Dda dated 26 October 2012.
- (2) A copy letter received from the Council's management consultants, Bellis-Jones Hill, Healthcare Management Solutions dated 27 September 2012.
- (3) A copy of the health board's completed consultation questionnaire.

The purpose in writing to you follows on from previous correspondence exchanged with the CHC over the Council's experience in dealing with both the health board and the Wales Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST).

The Council requests please that its response to the health board's consultation process is formally considered by the CHC.

The Council feels there are a number of important issues to flag up in the way the consultation process has been handled. These issues have had an impact on stakeholders such as ourselves.

Mae Cyngor Gwledig Llanelli yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg  
Llanelli Rural Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English



The issues are highlighted in the Council's covering letter to Mr Purt and I hope the letter content is self explanatory. However to help focus the CHC's attention I thought it might be helpful to pull out some of the key points:

1. The Council employed management consultants to help it formulate counter proposals for A&E services at Prince Philip Hospital (PPH).
2. The Council has failed on three occasions to obtain the necessary patient data from the health board to come up with robust counter proposals of its own.
3. The information and data contained in the health board's consultation document and technical supporting documents have a number of gaps and omissions. These have been identified by Bellis-Jones Hill, Healthcare Management Solutions.
4. WAST has been reluctant to attend Council meetings despite numerous requests made to it. WAST has also failed to provide any meaningful response over its involvement in supporting any of the health board's proposals. The reluctance to share information is a major concern.
5. Clinicians at PPH have recently declared the health board's preferred option for A&E services as unsafe! This development is very worrying indeed and the role of the National Clinical Forum (NCF) needs to be questioned and challenged, given the previous stamp of approval it gave to the health board's range of options.
6. The consultation process has been undermined by conflicting health board statements and this must be formally challenged. The health board is now advocating a nurse delivered local accident centre for PPH whereas the consultation questionnaire states nurse led; this is wrong and totally misleading. It is also quite significant in terms of what consultees have been asked to comment upon and without a doubt, will have a detrimental influence on how those responses are interpreted in so far as the responses affect PPH. Therefore the consultation process is technically flawed and cannot be endorsed. A nurse delivered service is very different to a nurse led service.
7. The health board has not sufficiently demonstrated that its options for PPH present no significant long term risk for the people in Llanelli. It has yet to make a full and rigorous assessment of its preferred options and is unable to provide any form of risk assessment to support its case.

The covering letter addressed to Mr Purt covers these points in more detail. The opinion and advice received from the Council's management consultants is also very significant and must be taken into account by the decision makers. Therefore the Council asks the CHC to study the letters very carefully.

Given the situation, any recommendations or decisions stemming from the consultation process should be deferred in order for the health board to prove its case; which it has yet to do convincingly. In the Council's opinion the CHC should also refer the matter to the Health Minister, Welsh Government for immediate attention.

I would appreciate the CHC's views and comments on how it intends to use the information provided by the Council and more importantly whether the CHC agrees with the Council that the consultation process has been undermined in light of the information provided.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible please.

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Council

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