



**Minutes of the Meeting of the North Wales Community Health Full Council held
Via Zoom
Wednesday 16 June 2021
Chair: Mrs Jackie Allen**

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| PRESENT: | | | |
| CONWY LOCAL COMMITTEE | Joy Baker Frank Bradfield | Phil Capper Liz Liddall | Sian Ramessur Roger Williams |
| DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL COMMITTEE | | | |
| FLINTSHIRE LOCAL COMMITTEE | Stella Howard | | |
| GWYNEDD LOCAL COMMITTEE | Adrian Drake-Lee | Vicki Harvey | |
| WREXHAM LOCAL COMMITTEE | Jackie Allen | Frank Hemmings | Adrian Leslie |
| YNYS MÔN LOCAL COMMITTEE | Glyn Haynes | Val Monaghan | |
| CO-OPTED MEMBERS | Brace Griffiths Dot Griffiths | Mair Jones Peter Rendle | Mike Theaker Mark Thornton |
| Staff | Rebeca Hughes Cerys Jones Carol Williams | Management Officer Management Officer Deputy Chief Officer | |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Geoff Ryall-Harvey Sue Irlam Lynwen Davies Jill Scupham | Chief Officer Secretariat Translator Administration Officer | |
| APOLOGIES: | | | |
| CONWY | Carina Edwards | Hilary Randall | |
| DENBIGHSHIRE | Kelly Benton Gordon Hughes | Angela Marshall Neil Taylor | Gill Williams |



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| FLINTSHIRE | Michael Boyle Di Gill | Linda Harper | David Mackie |
| GWYNEDD | John Jones | Michael Lloyd Jones | Paul Rowlinson |
| WREXHAM | Celia Hayward Adrian Leslie | Niki Tabern-Price | Jayne Thomas |
| YNYS MÔN | Richard Bladon Andy Burgen | Sadie Francis Aaron Osborne -Taylor | Dylan Rees |
| STAFF | Lucy Barker Bev Davies Eleri Ellis | Allison Hughes Debra Jones Bethan Perkins | Debbie Postle Rachel Valentine |
| NOT PRESENT | Myfanwy Baines Karen Bellis Jon Chorlton Eva Edwards Gladys Healey Derek Holmes | Trefor Hughes Russell Jackson Gwenfair Jones Rita Jones Linda Kinani Dewi Wyn Roberts | Menna Williams Emrys Wynne |

| MINUTE | ITEM | ACTION |
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| FC21.22 | WELCOME The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced the BCUHB attendant officers to the members of the NWCHC present at the special meeting. The Chair noted that the meeting was not a decision making meeting, but an information receiving meeting. | |
| FC21.23 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received and are as recorded | |
| FC21.24 | DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting. During the course of the meeting, Frank Bradfield declared that he had a relative who works at the Ablett Unit. | |
| FC21.25 | PRESENTATION Jill Timmins BCUHB Project Lead for the Ablett Unit Development, Alberto Salmoiraghi BCUHB Consultant Psychiatrist/Medical Director and Mike Smith BCUHB Interim Director Of Nursing Mental Health and Learning Disabilities (MHLDD) were in attendance to provide an update and information in respect of the proposed development at the Ablett Unit including changes to Bryn Hesketh. The following points and observations were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jill Timmins provided an overview of her role as the Project Lead for the Ablett Unit development noting that this involves liaison with the | |



project team, external design and consultancy partners and finance to bring about the proposed new build for the Ablett Unit.

- Jill also noted that she had family experience of inpatient mental health services in North Wales and was keen to ensure that the proposed new build of the Ablett Unit and the proposed changes to Bryn Hesketh brought about improved experiences for patients and their families using the service.
- Since the publication of the HASCAS and Ockenden reports into Tawel Fan, mental health services in North Wales has not had the best reputation; the proposed new build and changes will considerably enhance and improve the patient experience as well as mental health services generally.
- The original objectives of Strategic Outline Case, (SOC) were noted; it was confirmed that these remain and are not considered to be unreasonable.
- The SOC was prepared and issued after the publication of the HASCAS and Ockenden reports; the Outline Business Case, (OBC) was submitted in September 2019.
- Notwithstanding the previous public engagement undertaken, which included speaking to people with lived experiences, families and carers, and social media campaigns, the NWCHC had expressed concern at the level of engagement taken, given the changes that were being proposed at the time. The original service change protocol had been presented to the Services Planning Committee in January 2020; as a result of the pandemic and the response thereto, this had been put on the back burner.
- Feedback received from the engagement activity is to be used to shape the design and delivery of the new facilities, should approval be granted. The feedback outlines what is important to those with lived experiences as well as how this can make a difference to their progress and recovery.
- The proposed new build would include a welcoming reception area, with a café, which would give volunteering opportunities.
- The therapeutic space would be larger and would accommodate occupational therapists and psychological therapists as well as both indoor and outdoor well-being areas.
- Facilities for staff will be enhanced; as will the facilities for providing administrative support to the team of staff. Better accommodation will be provided so as to provide more private consultation space for pharmacy services upon discharge. It was noted the original SOC did not address the wider issues that were important to service users and concentrated solely on the bedroom facilities.



- The Electroconvulsive therapy suite (ECT) at the Ablett Unit provides treatment to both inpatient and outpatients. It is a small unit and to ensure its continued accreditation, it needs to be expanded, which will be done in the proposed new build.
- The number of section 136 admissions has increased; the new build would afford more comfortable facilities.
- Extra care facilities along with care closer to home would also be considered as part of the proposed new build; bed modelling has focussed on this area. Parking facilities for visitors and carers to the unit would also be considered as part of the development.
- In addition to the consultation with those with lived experiences, engagement had also been undertaken with residents, Members of the Senedd. A dedicated website had been set up and staff were consulted. Staff on mental health wards were canvassed for their feedback and thoughts; the project was also presented to the BCUHB Stakeholder Reference Group.
- In spite of support from the planning officer at Denbighshire County Council outline planning permission for the proposed development was not granted. Although BCUHB had been informed that permission would more than likely be granted if the rejection was appealed, a decision was taken not to appeal and to present a new application on a new area of the YGC site.
- The proposed new build will form part of the already significant investment in the mental health division.
- Moving on to the proposed changes to Bryn Hesketh, it was confirmed that it had never been designed as a dementia assessment unit and despite significant investment it was still not a dementia friendly unit. Bryn Hesketh had become the assessment following the closure of Tawel Fan.
- As it is an isolated unit there are a number of clinical risks, all of which have been flagged by HIW and other reports, including those of the NWCHC. The proposals provide an opportunity to create a bespoke dementia facility which would offer individual accommodation.
- Bryn Hesketh is an isolated unit that lacks on site medical cover at evenings and weekends. It also lacks access to diagnostics such as x-rays and scanning. There are also staffing challenges in the event of unplanned staff sickness and the ability to cover the staff rota. The new development would provide a more integrated service along with a more robust staff cohort.
- Co-locating the Ablett Unit and Bryn Hesketh would eliminate other identified risks such as delays in pharmacy provision; patient observations due to the current layout; and patient transfer to YGC.



The new development would provide en-suite bedrooms thus affording patients more dignity and gender appropriate spaces.

- It is anticipated that the OBC would be finalised by mid-July; this will then be presented to the project board. This will then pass through the various BCUHB governance committees before being presented to the Board meeting on 23 September 2021. Should the OBC be approved this would then be submitted to Welsh Government, again subject to approval, this would move to Full Business Case (FBC).

Jill Timmins thanked the Chair and the Chief Officer for the opportunity of presenting to the Full Council. Formal support for the proposed changes from the NWCHC was requested; should the support be received, this would be included in the OBC.

In response to questions received the following observations were made:

- There proposed new build would not include a rehabilitation unit. Consideration is being given to where this could be located in line with new guidelines for patient rehabilitation. Rehabilitation could be provided at Bryn Hesketh; NWCHC input and support for the rehabilitation services would be welcomed.
- Many patients need long-term rehabilitation which is not best done in a locked unit, but better done in a community setting where interventions from occupational therapists and other health care staff are available. Patients needing rehabilitation would also receive support in other areas, such as housing. The Clinical Strategy Group is cited on the discussions in respect of rehabilitation; Alberto Salmoiraghi agreed to share further information with NWCHC in this respect.
- Provided the various stages of the business case progress as expected, the new build should be open in 2025. It was noted that the OBC is being authored so as to anticipate any supplemental questions that may come from Welsh Government so as to avoid further delays.
- As the project moves forward work is already underway to develop a staff training programme to bring about a change of culture; a staff recruitment is already being drafted to ensure that the right staff with the right qualifications and experience are in place for when the proposed new build opens.
- It is pleasing to hear that the BCUHB has acknowledged the issues at both the Ablett Unit and Bryn Hesketh, many of which have been observed by NWCHC members when undertaking visits.
- Noting the intent to provide modern facilities, it was pointed out that some patients with dementia might not recognise the facilities thus causing further confusion. The design of the facilities will be undertaken using guidance as issued by the Kings Fund and will adhere to the Welsh Government's green agenda for new builds. It was also

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noted that carers, those with lived experiences and other stakeholders will be involved in the design of the facilities so that they are recognisable to the patient.

- Staffing continues to be a challenge, but much work is underway to grow, train and retain staff in North Wales, with a focus on the whole patient pathway for mental health patients. The team will have a multi-disciplinary focus and will be more integrated than previously.
- The services and facilities will be designed and delivered using the clinical evidence and guidelines whilst ensuring that humanity is also present throughout.
- Stakeholders are cited on the proposed change to the services; it is hoped that the changes will be undertaken with collaboration in line with the recently published Co-Production strategy from the Welsh Government.
- It was confirmed that the number of beds will not be reducing; bed modelling has been undertaken so as to predict the numbers needed to future proof the new build as demand for mental health services increases.
- It is acknowledged that there is a lack of crisis care currently, in the community; this will also be addressed as part of the project.
- With regard to the loss of car parking spaces, it was confirmed that 196 car parking spaces will be lost during the construction of the new build. BCUHB is trying to mitigate the loss of these spaces by establishing another park and ride scheme. Co-locating Bryn Hesketh in the new build will increase the number of car parking spaces needed to accommodate visitors and carers.
- It was confirmed that mechanical ventilation is a requirement. The outside space will be used for fresh air and for therapy.
- As regards the previous 'toxic mix' of patients, it was confirmed the wards and the gardens are not interchangeable. Each category of patient, functional mental health, including adult psychiatric care, and organic, including dementia care, would have their own areas in respect of relaxation, dining and outside space. The gardens would be a safe therapeutic space for patients.
- The bedrooms have been designed with maximum flexibility; should there be the need, specific bedrooms can be locked off.
- It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the project team leading on the new build had been varied so as to allow a CHC member; the representation on the project board would be considered by the NWCHC Executive Committee.
- It was suggested that the previous level of engagement be revisited so as to ensure wider and broader engagement be undertaken as the



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| | <p>project progresses; NWCHC would be able to assist and act as a key partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the NWCHC Executive Committee will be meeting on 5 July and would discuss the proposed new build and changes to the Ablett Unit, following which the Chief Officer would liaise with the BCUHB Project Lead regarding its support for the proposed development. | CO |
| FC20.26 20.20(1) | ANY OTHER BUSINESS There was no other business transacted. | |
| FC20.27 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL Tuesday 13 July 2021, 10.00am | |
| | All were thanked for attending the meeting The meeting closed at 12.16pm | |

CHAIR

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