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NEWS RELEASE

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HEALTH WATCHDOG REACTS TO PLANS ON SECOND HIW REPORT ON EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT YSBYTY GLAN CLWYD

The independent health services watchdog for North Wales – the North Wales Community Health Council (NWCHC) has commented on a second adverse report on the Emergency Department (ED) at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd issued this week by Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) setting out concerns about continuing serious patient safety issues and staffing problems within the Emergency Department.

Mr Geoff Ryall-Harvey, Chief Officer for NWCHC said “We are concerned to read this second adverse report setting out serious problems and safety issues and we are disappointed at the apparent lack of progress in addressing the same concerns that were reported by HIW earlier this year”.

“Our own unannounced visits to the Emergency Department have revealed long waiting times, poor communication with patients and difficult and uncomfortable conditions for patients who may have to wait 12 hours or more for treatment. To hear that clinical care and patient safety remains problematical is extremely concerning.”

Mr Ryall-Harvey went on to say; “Betsi Cadwaladr is currently in Targeted Intervention with a review by the Minister planned for October of this year. In the light of this latest report and other recent issues related to patient care, the CHC will be asking the Minister to consider bringing this forward”.

NWCHC now wishes to see the further detail regarding the Health Board’s Improvement Plans for ED at Glan Clwyd, as well as Wreccsam Maelor and Ysbyty Gwynedd.

Note for editors

1 North Wales Community Health Council (CHC) is an independent statutory organisation which represents the interests of patients and the public in the National Health Service in North Wales. It came into being on 1 April 2010 as part of the reorganization of health services in Wales and covers the counties of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham and Ynys Môn. The six counties have a combined population of around 675,500.

2 The Community Health Council has six local committees, one covering each of the six counties. Each local committee comprises members drawn from three sources: councillors nominated by the relevant local authority, people nominated by the local voluntary sector organizations and local people appointed by Welsh Government.

More information

For more information or an interview with Geoff Ryall-Harvey please contact: North Wales CHC, tel: 01248 679284 or Email: sue.irlam@wales.nhs.uk

Ends

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