

HYDROTHERAPY SERVICES ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWING COVID-19

COMMENTS RECEIVED BETWEEN 20TH DECEMBER, 2021 AND 26TH DECEMBER, 2021

Date Received	From	Received Via	Comments	Theme
21/12/21	Anonymous	Intranet	we should not lose any of our hydrotherapy pools access for the community must be prioritised losing the hydrotherapy pool at Morriston Hospital is terrible and poor planning	Negative Response Against the closure of the hydrotherapy pool at Morriston Hospital
21/12/21	Anonymous	Intranet	All research and data shows that early mobilisation is absolute key to a patient's rehabilitation and effectively reduces patient's hospital length of stay. As a staff member that regularly used the hydrotherapy pool for ITU patients I feel strongly against the closure of the area. Hydrotherapy is a vital contribution to rehab and can significantly improve wellbeing, confidence and patient centered care. Why would we remove vital facilities from an acute hospital setting and increase patients length of stay, decrease their overall mental health and dramatically reduce rehabilitation potential. Reminds me of another awful decision made by SBUHB a few years ago when community hospitals were closed. Absolutely appalling.	As above
21/12/21	Anonymous	Intranet	The hydrotherapy pool is widely used by a number of inpatient teams including mine. Hydrotherapy, Physio Gym and the whole department are consistently used and all contribute to patient's rehabilitation. I have seen the wonderful impact hydrotherapy can have on a patient and their rehabilitation journey. It was suggested to us that we would be able to use the hydrotherapy pool in NPTH, whilst that might be an option for outpatients it would be completely impossible to transport a critical care patient to NPTH therefore would jeopardise their entire rehabilitation journey. Why should patients suffer when the facility is available and has been an active and key part of early mobilisation.	As above
21/12/21	Anonymous	Intranet	Firstly, not all inpatients are in Neath Port Talbot Hospital therefore not all patients can utilise the pool there. Early rehabilitation is key for all patients and highly proven in current research. Morriston is predominantly an acute hospital site but patients need to have access to all rehabilitation facilities here to enable them to improve. If patients receive effective rehab in an acute site they may not even need the "centre of excellence for rehabilitation" or may only need it for a short period of time, which will improve patient flow and facilitate safe early discharge. Secondly, limiting services to only the NPT or Singleton sites for hydrotherapy outpatients is outrageous. SBUHB	As above

			<p>covers a wide area including many patients who do not have access to a car, do not drive, maybe immobile or are unable to access public transport. It is not feasible for people to rely on family members or friends for transport especially when many patients may not have this luxury. Taxi transport is extremely expensive and completely unrealistic. Therefore, many people will not be able to access the services they require and shouldn't patient centred care be our main concern. If NPTH is going to become the centre of excellence for orthopaedic and spinal services, then why does fracture clinic need to be relocated back to Morriston? I am also aware that many orthopaedic and spinal patients utilise the pool at Morriston site and this is taking away a vital service for them. There are many other areas that could be used for fracture clinic / plaster room like the area that was purposely built and fully functional prior to the pandemic which is now Enfys. Why are we constantly re-inventing the wheel for provisions that are already in place? The health board seems to be proposing to spend unnecessary funds again for no real gain and inpatient care is yet again going to suffer as a result. Disgraceful! How about we utilise Hydrotherapy to its full potential and fund staff for all 3 pools appropriately, extend opening hours of all 3 pools and work at providing an improved service for all patient's rehabilitation, both inpatient and outpatient allowing both teams extended times to meet everyone's needs. It is all well and good saying that patients' needs are currently being met using NPT and Singleton because Morriston has been closed however inpatients at Morriston do not even have the opportunity to use the pool now when many do need it and it was being efficiently used prior to the pandemic but has never re-opened since!</p>	
22/12/21	Save Our Pool	Intranet	<p>So closing the pool at Morriston will save a proposed £53k, however the creation of a Clinical Lead for Hydrotherapy Services i.e. a glorified lifeguard will likely incur a salary of £45k+. The cost saving doesn't sound so sweet now.</p>	As above
22/12/21	LE	Completed Response Form	<p>SBUHB covers a wide geographical area, public transport links to NPT are not as comprehensive as they are to Morriston. If patients are in a rehabilitation programme, then presumably many of them will have some form of limited mobility. Limiting the locations where they can access the pools does not make sense. Not everyone has friends / family who can drive them to appointments, and expecting patients to take taxi's is ludicrous.</p> <p>Considering the backlog of patients the health board has / will have due to COVID, plus the ordinary levels of patients the health board would have in 'normal times', to limit the number facilities, staff time and locations where the combined numbers of patients can access their rehabilitation is nonsensical.</p> <p>Although I understand the concept of creating a 'centre of excellence', not all patients will fit into the framework of the 'type' of patients who would be allocated to that. There</p>	As above Transport Links inadequate

			<p>will be acute patients who will benefit, reducing hospital length of stay and facilitating a safer discharge. This will in turn ease the pressure on the centre of excellence as they can concentrate on the more rigorous, specialised rehabilitation.</p> <p>Just because all three pools are open and available, it doesn't necessarily follow that the same type of patients need to be seen in them, for example, severe fracture rehabilitation vs ITU patients. Both patients will need the pool, but the type of exercises and duration will vary.</p> <p>Patient Centred Care will be damaged by the loss of the pool in Morrision, as it is potentially removing a valuable tool available to the patient that would aid their recovery. Yes, patients can be transferred between sites, but that would cause more disruption and discomfort to the patient, take longer and involve more NHS staff and transport in the safe movement of the patient.</p> <p>I would urge the health board to reconsider this proposal. I feel sure that if you were to consult the hospital staff that this would impact, they would say the same. Please keep the pool in Morrision operational. As Hydrotherapy is a proven rehabilitation tool, would it not be better to have it available to all patients and not just those moved to the "centre of excellence for rehabilitation?" What about the more critically ill patients who are still inpatients in Morrision where hydrotherapy is beneficial to their recovery? Removing the pool in Morrision will only put more pressure on NPT and Singleton, there will be the same number of patients but only 2 sites and not 3.</p>	
23/12/21	HT	Completed Response Form	<p>Mae angen rhoi buddsoddiad yn adnoddau ffisiotherapi sydd yn cynnwys hyrdotherapi. Bach iawn yw'r gwelliannau y mae'r bwrdd iechyd wedi gwneud i'r pwll hydrotherapi yn Ysbyty Treforys dros y degawdau diwethaf. Yn anffodus nawr mae'r pwll angen llawer o waith i'w adnewyddu ac yn lle buddsoddi mae'r bwrdd iechyd am gau'r pwll hydrotherapi. Os oes rhaid cau'r pwll gan nad yw i'fyny i'r safon y dylasai fod, wedyn dylai'r bwrdd iechyd ymrwymo i adeiladu pwll hydrotherapi newydd yn Ysbyty Treforys. Os ydych am ymrwymo i wella taith claf drwy'r ysbyty a chyflymu gallu cleifion i fynd nol adref mae'n rhaid buddsoddi mewn ffisiotherapi a hydrotherapi i roi cyfle i'r cleifion wella ac adsefydlu tra'n aros yn yr ysbyty.</p> <p>Investment needs to be placed in physiotherapy resources that include hydrotherapy. The improvements that the health board has made to the hydrotherapy pool at Morrision Hospital over recent decades are very small. Unfortunately, now the pool needs a lot of work to renovate and instead of investing the health board wants to close the hydrotherapy pool. If the pool has to be closed because it is not up to the</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Financial investment required</p>

		<p>standard that it should have been, then the health board should commit to building a new hydrotherapy pool at Morrision Hospital. If you are to commit to improving a patient's journey through hospital and speeding up patients' ability to go back home investment must be made in physiotherapy and hydrotherapy to give patients the opportunity to recover and rehabilitate while staying in hospital.</p> <p>Rhydw I fel Ffisiotherapydd Arbenigol Niwrogyhyrol yng Ngwasanaeth Niwrogyhyrol Oedolin De-Orllewin Cymru yn anghytuno'n gryf gyda'r cynnig I gau pwll hydrotherapi Ysbyty Treforys. Mae fy nghleifion sydd gyda diagnosis o gyflwr niwrogyhyrol fel dystroffi cyhyrol yn gweld hydrotherapi yn ffordd o fedru ymdopi gyda'u cyflwr hir-dymor. Mae derbyn cwrs o hydrotherapi yn hanfodol ar gyfer problem penodol fel poen, problem cerdded, osgo, a chydwbysedd, ynghyd a phroblemau cyhyrau gwan. Ysbyty Treforys yw'r ysbyty agosaf at nifer fawr o'n cleifion ni a mae gofyn iddynt fynd yn ymhellach yn gallu bod yn anodd iddynt.</p> <p>I am a Specialist Neurological Physiotherapist working within the Adult Neurological Service in South West Wales and I strongly disagree with the option to close the hydrotherapy pool in Morrision Hospital. My patients diagnosed with a neuromuscular condition such as muscular dystrophy see hydrotherapy as a way of being able to cope with their long-term condition. Receiving a course of hydrotherapy is essential for a particular problem such as pain, walking problem, posture, and co-obsesepacy, along with weak muscle Morrision Hospital is the nearest hospital to a large number of our patients and asking them to go further can be difficult for them.</p>	
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**COMMENTS RECEIVED
27TH DECEMBER, 2021 TO 2ND JANUARY, 2022**

Date Received	From	Received Via	Comments	Theme

**COMMENTS RECEIVED
3RD JANUARY, 2022 TO 9TH JANUARY, 2022**

Date	From	Received	Comments	Theme

Received		Via		
03/01/22	Save our Rehab Facilities	Intranet	Reducing access to any rehab facilities is a short sighted move. Patients can currently wait weeks for transfer to N&PT, which means rehab has to start at the Morriston Site. Not all patients will require transfer to N&PT, which means transferring purely for hydro will less cost effective. Additionally, both Singleton and Neath have strict criteria for accepting patients, which means that some patients will undoubtedly miss out on rehabilitation with this proposal.	As above
05/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	Many patients needs have not been met due to the hydrotherapy pool closure in MGH at both an inpatient and outpatient level. Several important factors have been discussed from an inpatient perspective. Further points around outpatients is the distance to travel to these sites is not feasible for many people with disability who cannot drive or those that have significant impairments making it difficult to travel further distances. Many others have not been able to use the pools in SGH or NPTH due to accessibility as it is not as user friendly as the pool in MGH or relevant equipment available i.e. appropriate hoists.	As above Transport and equipment
05/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	how is the figure regarding saving £53k on the pool in Morriston calculated	Finance
06/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	I completely agree with the above comments. Delays in transfer of patients to NPT for rehab will just delay access to hydro and rehab, potentially lengthening their stay. Transport will be problematic. I also find it difficult to see many rehab patients being able to be in the hydro pool at 8am for rehab, or many who will want to be there until 6pm. Unfortunately, the NHS is not a business. We deal with people. This is very short sighted.	Delay in transfer will result in delay of rehab Transport
07/01/22	Anonymous	Internet	how is the figure regarding saving £53k on the pool in Morriston calculated?	Finance
08/01/22	LN	E-mail	<p>the document is very biased and offers no accurate data on use of hydrotherapy. It is contradictory in that it expresses Morriston Hospital pool is difficult to access but surely the travelling etc. that patients will have to undertake will be a far more significant difficulty.</p> <p>Is there any data on the use and a breakdown of the figures (in essence the story behind the figures) that can be made available?</p> <p>It is interesting that 1 TAVI (Trans Aortic Valve Implantation) can cost over 25- 30 k for one patient. TAVI is comparable as it is for a chronic heart disorder and is a palliative solution to aortic stenosis but this incredibly important service which hasn't the 'sexy' new developments is long forgotten despite its incredible benefits to many patients. Cost benefit assessment has not been included in the document!</p> <p>In an era of health rationing I do believe that services that canvas win the day. It is a shame the hydrotherapy service in Morriston Hospital has its neck on the line. sad for future physiotherapists and patients.</p>	

			<p>there was also a lack of resuscitation services mentioned in the document - can this be included.</p> <p>Patients do become unwell and NPTH does not have the same rescue facilities that Morriston Hospital does - it is important to include this.</p>	
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COMMENTS RECEIVED
10th JANUARY, 2022 TO 16th JANUARY, 2022

Date Received	From	Received Via	Comments	Theme
10/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	Axing such an important facility to "save" 53K is ridiculous. This is an important part of the service infrastructure which improves patient wellbeing and saves ongoing health issues when used early in a patient's rehabilitation. Taking this away will incur delays and increase ongoing treatment costs.	Finance Delay in treatment
10/01/22	SM	E-mail	<p>What provision do you plan for out patients recommended for hydrotherapy?</p> <p>Morriston Physiotherapy Dept referred me to hydrotherapy after an accident that caused severe back pain. After 2 sessions I was told I could only have 1 more which I didn't feel was sufficient. If I wanted more I'd have to find my own. After 2 months of weekly private sessions, I was advised that I should ask for an MRI scan as he thought it was more than a muscular problem. Turns out I had fractured 2 vertebrae which had subsequently collapsed. Recently I was referred to the Chronic Pain Clinic which was the most informative, positive appointment in over 3 yrs. After being prescribed Pregabalin and speaking to a physiotherapist, he put me in touch with Pontarddulais Hydro Pool and arranged for me to attend a session there where I could continue with the programme I was doing previously. Unfortunately, Covid 19 is causing problems as usual.</p> <p>Sorry, long story to make a plea for people who suffer chronic pain to have better access to hydrotherapy outside of inpatient provision (which was already stretched when I attended) Whether by being able to access sessions with independent providers or NHS non-guided sessions. It seems an effective way for people to build up strength while trying to combat their pain. Thanks for taking the time to read my email.</p>	
11/01/22	LM	Intranet	Our ICU patients who use the pool find it hugely beneficial and it is a vital part of their rehabilitation. To lose this valued and valuable resource on the Morriston is very short	

			sighted and will be to the detriment of ICU patients. We will not be able to transfer them to Neath or Singleton. From the other comments here, many other patients will also suffer.	
12/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	the review of the service I would fully support as the current service levels are not making best use of resources and the proposals in the engagement document demonstrates this. The views on reducing service levels are not correct the proposal is to deliver the same service levels but with a different solution to the present configuration. The actual use of the hydro therapy pool for inpatients is very limited and alternative arrangements can be made safety to access these on other sites. The service has been delivered outside Morriston for the past 18 months with no real complaints from patients and the demands on the site require us to consider how we can develop space for the benefits of patients need in emergency and other services	
14/01/22	Response Form	E-mail	Although the Hydrotherapy pool benefits patients, that number is small, and by repurposing the area a far greater number of people would benefit, so is a much better use of the space. Ensuring that when patients do need Hydrotherapy, that there is adequate and appropriate access	

COMMENTS RECEIVED
17th JANUARY, 2022 TO 23rd JANUARY, 2022

Date Received	From	Received Via	Comments	Theme
19/01/22	HU	E-mail	Requesting information on how to hire the Hydrotherapy Pool. Engagement exercise is drawing attending to the availability of the pool within the Health Board area and its communities.	
19/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	The plan to expand availability of the hydro pools to community groups and the voluntary sector is a great idea. My elderly mother had been regularly attending privately run classes at the hydro pool pre-Covid and it had a huge impact on the pain from her multi joint arthritis, her mobility and her wellbeing. I hope the classes are able to restart soon, she would definitely be keen to come to a weekend session!	
20/01/22	CJ	E-mail (part of response form)	I do feel that it is difficult to get to Morriston hospital if you are unable to drive, whereas the other hospitals have good links to the areas they serve. Also the local people in Morriston have a regular bus service to Swansea or Neath Also parking is difficult in Morriston because only a few of the small car parks are anywhere near the hospital all the others are a long walk especially for sick people	

			whenever my husband has an appointment I have to go with him as I know, as often happens, that I have to stay in the car parked illegally so I can move it if necessary as there is nowhere else to park.	
20/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	I'm sure the public will appreciate that not all services can be provided on all three sites, in the same way that people needing kidney dialysis or ALAC services would travel to Morriston for treatment. There will still be hydrotherapy in both Swansea and NPT. Sessions running in evenings and weekends will improve access for those working or in school and private hire of the pools by various groups will enable many people to self-manage chronic conditions in the long term. Inpatient access during the rehabilitation phase of their recovery will be based in the rehabilitation centre of excellence in NPTH which makes sense. Investment in training and hydrotherapy facilities will ensure the best services into the future. It all looks good to me.....	
21/01/22	SW	Response Form	This seems like a very pragmatic proposal to enable the Health board to realise a number of the proposed changes needed for the Centres of Excellence. The relocation and improvement of the fracture clinic, back to where it is likely to be needed most, seems a very good outcome from this proposal.	

COMMENTS RECEIVED
24th JANUARY, 2022 TO 30th JANUARY, 2022

27/01/22	Anon	Intranet	The option to use Morriston pool has been taken away the last 18 months to no fault of anyone however many inpatients have been identified who would benefit from the pool but simply do not have that luxury so this isn't a true reflection of services.	
27/01/22	Anonymous	Intranet	Wouldn't closing the pool at Morriston create additional pressure upon the other sites and therefore longer waiting lists, more pressure on staff for what would seem an already under funded service	
27/01/22	SB	Response Form	It makes sense to use the hydrotherapy pools more effectively than they are being used at the moment, and I really like the idea of making them accessible out of hours to community groups. Do all you can to support people living near Morriston who might have transport problems getting to the other hospitals.	

			<p>department. Being on the ground floor and very close to the main entrance means that the department is ideally located and within easy reach.</p> <p>Delaying inpatients in Morrison and expecting them to travel to another site when they are discharged seems inappropriate. These patients will already be experiencing mobility issues and then they will be expected to travel a further distance in order to reach their appointment. Will this impact on the amount of Ambulance transport being used??? This will also cause a delay to the patients being started on treatment which could result in a huge detriment to their health and recovery.</p>	
28/01/22	PMT	Partial Response Form	<p>It makes sense if the proposals for Morrision keeping to acute only, less demand for Hydrotherapy will result. That will not be a priority and can access Singleton or NPT sites as part of rehab</p> <p>Morrison hospital is not the easiest for access – parking is a nightmare for staff and patients alike and is out of the way for the majority of the population within Swansea Bay area.</p>	

COMMENTS RECEIVED
31st JANUARY, 2022 TO 6th FEBRUARY, 2022

02/02/2022	JA	E-mail	<p>With regard to the hydrotherapy pools, in an ideal world it would be lovely if every hospital had one. However, as we do not live in an ideal world, one pool in each health authority area is a good compromise. As long as it doesn't involve patients who need that treatment, waiting longer to get it.</p>	
02/02/2022	RM	Response form	<p>Strongly disagree – no further comments.</p>	

COMMENTS RECEIVED
7th FEBRUARY, 2022 TO 13TH FEBRUARY, 2022

08/02/22	ZG	Response Form	<p>The pool is in the centre of the hospital so access for patients is difficult. If early discharge pathways are established, then the demand for inpatient use will be limited on the Morrision site. Hydrotherapy pools are extremely costly to run so savings made would allow for better facilities at the two other sites. To date none of the pools appear to be used to full capacity.</p> <p>"Need to ensure that the day to day running of the 2 proposed sites remain as efficient as possible to include general housekeeping:</p>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughput of patients - currently for the MSK outpatient speciality at Singleton alone hydro capacity has dropped to approx. 32 pt contacts/wk compared to 72 pt contacts/wk pre-Covid, creating a waiting list of about 5 weeks for MSK outpatients. This is partly due to Covid restrictions but also staff provision physio and TA (pool side assistant cover) - Close monitoring of the pool timetable to maximise use. Somebody designated to oversee bookings, timetable etc, and ensure fairness over allocation - Clinical groups taking priority over private hire - Creating links with community and local leisure centres to support the provision of exercise in water in groups that do not necessarily require the hydrotherapy facilities (i.e. warm water) e.g. aqua natal. Discharge recommendations given to patients of local pool sessions inc. walking lanes, ramp access, discounted/subsidised rates. The possibility of a service level agreement across all Freedom Leisure Sites for certain patient population groups. - Facilities/Equipment; ensure pools are maintained at correct temperature to avoid cancellation of sessions (several days of hydro at SGH site were lost a couple of weeks ago). Reinvesting in pool facilities." 	
07/02/22	SR	Response Form	<p>Closing Morriston will put increased pressure on the other pools. If not all sessions are utilised, this may be a lack of knowledge of hydro options amongst staff who could refer, therefore this could be addressed via staff awareness and training. Keeping it open would provide more options, e.g. revenue can be generated from outside groups using the pools.</p> <p>There is still a need to keep a focus on holistic care even though I appreciate that sites like Morriston will be more acute focussed, any opportunities to provide a more holistic option is very important for individuals' overall wellbeing.</p> <p>To be offered Pontardawe or Neath. Transport would be easier as these locations are closer to home as my son returns to school</p>	
07/02/22	N/K	Response Form	<p>To be offered in Pontardawe or Neath</p> <p>Transport would be easier at these locations and closer to home as my son returns to school.</p>	
07/02/22	N/K	Response Form	<p>Happy to travel</p> <p>Most important issue continuity of physio staff - grandson loves Jess and Roger It's important to us he sees them. Also once, appointment was cancelled and we weren't told</p>	

07/02/22	N/K	Response Form	<p>I feel there should be a hydro pool for LD clients who really benefit from Hydro</p> <p>"Parking is not available due to vans and workmen taking places. More community opportunities Would benefit with a hoist and changing bed for complex clients who are not able to access the pool Better time options"</p>	
07/02/22	N/K	Response Form	<p>We need better disabled parking, better hoisting and changing facilities for our complex clients. More community opportunities.</p>	
07/02/22	SC	Response Form	<p>I have been a patient who attended Morriston hydrotherapy pool for treatment. The pool was lovely, but the waiting area is inappropriate, it's a main thoroughfare and on the corridor to private offices. The showers felt very exposed and not in the changing area and the facilities were not very good. Also as there were no toilet facilities had to use public toilets out of the physiotherapy area.</p> <p>Transport links to Singleton and NPT are both very good. Although Morriston is near motorway, it is a long way across Swansea if from the West. For people living that side it may be easier/quicker to access NPT hydro rather than Singleton.</p>	

COMMENTS RECEIVED
14TH FEBRUARY, 2022 TO 18TH FEBRUARY, 2022

14/02/22	N/K	Response form	<p>This service is a vital part of recovery from serious injuries, even life changing and to think of stopping any of these Hydrotherapy pools would put people off of using them and I found the pool a great asset in part of my recovery</p> <p>How can the Health Board even consider shutting a vital service for the aid of recovery, that helps people start to move and exercise again who would otherwise remain injured, as some people cannot travel to other pools and if payment for travel is paid by the Health Board, spend that money on the pool</p>	
14/02/22	N/K	Response Form	<p>"A small number of Morriston inpatients will lose access" any number losing access is unacceptable, not sure why the staff and patients of Morriston are being treated as second class throughout this reorganisation.</p> <p>You say that closing the Morriston pool would mean easier access closer to people's homes, so the people of SA5, SA6, SA7, SA8, SA9 and considerable chunks of SA1, 4 and 10 don't exist, or is geography not a strong point?</p>	

			<p>"poorly situated for out-patient or community access as its located in the centre of the hospital" - if any of you have actually been to Morrision the pool is located on the ground floor, about 30 yards from the old entrance, which is still in use. That's hardly "poorly located" especially as ambulance transport uses that entrance."</p> <p>"Actual public opinion - no patients I've seen have not been aware in any way of the changes already being undertaken, including those who are on consultation panels (which is deeply concerning about how above board this is)</p> <p>Patient welfare - this seems the lowest priority, especially patients at Morrision, who will be having vital treatment taken away from them</p> <p>Staff feedback - we feel pretty ignored and worthless</p> <p>Singleton and NPT do not offer better access for a large chunk of the Swansea Bay population than Morrision. Towns such as Clydach, Trebanos, Pontardawe and further up the valley, areas of Swansea such as Gorseinon, Penlleger and areas of central Swansea all have better access to Morrision than the other sites. Also, NPT is not better served by public transport than either Swansea site and parking at Singleton is next to impossible, before going into traffic flow issues on Mumbles Road and St. Helens."</p>	
14/02/22	SD	Response Form	<p>"Cohorting hydrotherapy patients to maximise usage across 2 sites is a more prudent use of resources and skill sets. As a community service, we provide hydrotherapy intervention predominantly in NPT and Singleton Hospital, for baby groups, major trauma patients, post-orthopaedic surgery and rheumatology patients. These all need the high water temperature of a hydrotherapy pool during rehabilitation, however some patient groups could be treated in local pools if an arrangement was made with local authority leisure centres; Bridgend County (Halo Leisure) used to provide adult and baby pools free of charge during the quiet lunchtime period with a life guard. We used this for our Perthes' and toddler groups.</p> <p>Financial savings; Resources can be re-directed towards employing additional staff to facilitate early discharge from acute hospital sites and possibly provide an on-site pool physio technical instructor to support the hydro sessions, releasing qualified staff to focus on specialist work.</p> <p>Supporting and encouraging community residents to use the pool at evenings and weekends will not only bring in revenue but also provide an opportunity for patients/families to practice the programmes taught to them by professionals. This will facilitate the self-management approach to habilitation and rehabilitation we are encouraging in physiotherapy"</p>	

			<p>"Fair and effective time tabling of hydro access for all departments</p> <p>Ambulance transport access</p> <p>Cost savings and how monies will be effectively re-directed</p> <p>Plans to maintain and replace remaining hydro facilities as they age</p> <p>Community access availability and booking co-ordination for evening and weekends"</p>	
14/02/22	KT	Response Form	<p>I use only the Singleton pool; the future of Morriston pool would not affect me as it's too far away for me to use</p> <p>I would like to be assured of the same levels of personal use at Singleton; i.e. no loss of availability of pool sessions, which I find so incredibly helpful.</p>	
09/02/22	<p>BackCare Swansea Branch</p> <p>Anthony J. Davies</p>	Letter	<p>"Observations on the Health Board Proposals - The Swansea BackCare Committee has considered the Health Board's proposals closely and would like to make the following comments:</p> <p>Closure of the Hydrotherapy Pool and Morriston Hospital - we note the reasons put forward for the closure of the pool and accept that this may be necessary on a temporary basis given the present pandemic and the resulting crisis in health service provision. We would urge, however, that nothing be done which would prevent the reopening of hydrotherapy facilities at Morriston Hospital at a future date.</p> <p>Provision of Hydrotherapy Services at Singleton Hospital - We note the intention of the Health Board to improve hydrotherapy services at Singleton and Health Port Talbot hydrotherapy pools by increasing the operational hours from 5/6 to 8/10 hours per day. We also note that operating hours may be extended to 8am to 6pm.</p> <p>We welcome the decision to make the Hydrotherapy Pool at Singleton available to community groups and voluntary sector organisations (such as Swansea BackCare) but have reservations about the facilities only being available outside NHS operating hours. The previously agreed times of our classes (between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm) had the advantage that buses are still running at these times and that, for a considerable period of the year, there is still daylight for car drivers. The age profile of our members is such that many of the hydrotherapy participants do not like driving in the dark. These hours also enable the physiotherapists who supervised the classes to do so at the end of their normal working day. We would hope, therefore that we could continue to have classes at approximately these times when the present pandemic is over. One other point of concern is that the capacity of the Singleton pool is quoted at 6 users plus the physiotherapist in charge. Restriction to classes of 6 would make it difficult for Swansea BackCare to run hydrotherapy sessions on an economically acceptable basis for its members. For many years we have run classes for up to 10 users at a time. Here we think it is important to differentiate between use of the pool</p>	

			<p>for the treatment of individuals having different requirements and the operation of exercise classes where all the participants are performing identical exercises under the overall supervision of a physiotherapist. Past experience has shown that classes have operated extremely successfully in the past with 8-10 participants.</p> <p>Overall Conclusions - The Committee of Swansea BackCare welcomes the Health Board proposals with regard to the expansion of hydrotherapy facilities at Singleton and Neath Port Talbot hospitals. Hydrotherapy exercises have proved extremely beneficial to our members in the past and we hope that classes will be able to be resumed at the Singleton Hydrotherapy Pool in the near future with similar hours and numbers as in previous years. We very much appreciate the co-operation and help that we have received from staff members in the Singleton Hospital Physiotherapy Department in the past."</p>	
11/02/22	SM Ortho Clinical Lead	E-mail	<p>"In response to the e-mail trail below I have précised by previous discussion with you:</p> <p>Hydrotherapy is a desirable adjunct to treatment for SCI not an essential one, indeed some of the specialist spinal rehab centres within UK do not have this treatment modality to offer patients.</p> <p>Pre Covid, it was not possible to utilise the hydro pool at Morrison Hospital for this cohort of patients due to lack of staffing capacity. Offering this time consuming and manpower heavy service to a small cohort of patients would have been detrimental to a larger group of other trauma patients. Thus for fairness to all patients and efficient use of resources. T&O treatment sessions to all cohorts of patients were delivered as land based sessions."</p>	
15/02/22	N/K	E-mail	<p>As long as you keep the Singleton and Neath pools open and invest money into Community. I have had a long stay on ITU in induced coma and would benefit from post exercise therapy. I would prefer to go to a leisure centre than hospital as less danger of Covid</p> <p>It is easier to attend a leisure centre</p>	
15/02/22	N/K	E-mail	<p>I use the pool in Singleton as it is on the same site as the Haemophilia Centre. The access and parking is easy. I do not need to use the pool in Morrison.</p>	
15/02/22	N/K	E-mail	<p>As a physiotherapist providing a hydrotherapy service in Singleton, I would prefer that the facilities were improved on Singleton and NPT sites for service users. Singleton is best placed in terms of access from a health and safety point of view is better as patients do not have to walk through the main hospital to access.</p> <p>As above - please make improvements to the facilities in Singleton and NPTH with the money saved from not maintaining Morrison, etc.</p>	

15/02/22	N/K	E-mail	<p>As long as you can still attend somewhere I would prefer Singleton to attend for appointments even better not a hospital. I have parkinsons I don't want to be reminded of this and want to feel normal</p> <p>Can you deliver into other community locations leisure centres - easier to park. Morriston is terrible for parking.</p>	
15/02/22	N/K	E-mail	<p>It's beneficial for people to have the option to use it. If it helps them have a better quality of life.</p>	
16/02/22	KH	E-mail	<p>Centralisation of hydrotherapy services on the NPT site will support the healthboard intent for creation of centres of excellence across the various sites – Morriston will be a centre of excellence for acute care and patients requiring on-going support will be transferred to another site for on-going care – patients requiring access to hydrotherapy services post acute care – eg spinal, stroke will benefit from an enhanced offer which can be achieved through centralising the resources onto one site and delivering a centre of excellence for rehab.</p> <p>Transfer of care and referral to onward rehabilitation should be seamless with no delay in accessing services which will benefit patients. Extended times will support patients who require access at different times and travel arrangements to access the service should meet the need of the individual – in the same way access to any health services should.</p>	
18/02/22	KB	Letter via E-mail	<p>I am writing to request that you allow some breathing space before a final decision regarding the closure of Morriston Hospital pool is made. I would very much like to see if the usage of this wonderful facility could be turned around with the employment of a Band 8 Therapist to oversee the efficient management of the Hydrotherapy services in SBUHB. I am concerned that some of the issues stated as sufficient reasons for shutting it are due to historic poor management and chronic under usage rather than that the pool is not needed.</p> <p>1. Usage Morrison pool may well have been underutilised over recent years prior to COVID which will have produced poor usage numbers but I wonder if this may have been due to the lack of an appropriate Hydrotherapy Manager to oversee the facilities rather than lack of demand. Singleton pool has successfully been used to full capacity with private companies using it out of hours (from my own experience I had to wait 2 years for a slot to become available to take our patients for hydro) but for some reason this has not been copied at Morriston pool.</p>	

			<p>There is untapped potential for Morriston pool to be used by Hywel Dda patients who need this facility as well as patients from SBUHB with chronic conditions who would happily pay a small fee to attend a regular class e.g. haemophilia, MS, RA, OA, Chronic pain etc. I understand that only 1 pool remains in Hywel Dda and that the Physiotherapy Dept is being moved off site which leaves that Hydrotherapy pool also vulnerable to closure, increasing this untapped potential from Hywel Dda.</p> <p>It is worth noting that there is a company in Cross Hands that advertises 'Hydrotherapy' treatment and charges £25 per half hour and £40 per hour session. If the suggested Band 8 Hydrotherapy Specialist Physiotherapist were put in place now before any decision to close Morriston pool I feel that perhaps they could turn Morriston pool around make it a viable option financially by increasing its usage and providing income to support itself.</p> <p>Despite the numbers from ITU and inpatients being small the patients will have benefited greatly from this facility which cannot be offered in any way or on a different site. There is often a lack of evidence to support the benefit of rehab to our patients for adding Value to Health care and improving a patient's quality of life but there is plenty of anecdotal evidence of this. The Band 8 role would be responsible for collecting evidence to support or disprove my views.</p> <p>I'm not sure that the patient numbers can readily be absorbed by Singleton and NPTH by increasing the hours available to staff. Finding staff prepared to undertake Hydrotherapy is difficult because it's extremely tiring being in the pool and an extra skill that not all therapists possess or desire to have and staff are understandably not keen to undertake hydro out of hours in addition to a full days work.</p> <p>There are also safety issues around allowing staff to use them outside of the core working hours due to the patient case mix, hence why we have always kept our patients in core working hours. Extending use to other paying service users after hours for less high risk patients is a sensible option and previously undertaken at Singleton (I have no knowledge of NPTH).</p> <p>2. Access When working in Morriston I was never aware of any complaints regarding access for the pool. There are emergency exits from the pool itself and the physio gym. If patients are struggling with mobility they would be brought in a wheelchair by family member or porter without issue.</p>	
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