**New wards planned for hospitals**

Thursday, 19 January 2017

Up to 60 new beds could be coming to Morriston and the Princess of Wales hospitals with plans to erect pre-built modular wards on both sites.

The two new wards will support the hospitals’ existing facilities, offering space for patients when key modernisation work gets underway on existing wards. They will also help during the winter and other times of the year when pressures are high, offering much-needed flexibility to the system.

Applications for planning permission for the developments are now with the local authorities, seeking consent to go ahead.

Sian Harrop-Griffiths ABMU’s Director of Strategy said:

**“Many wards in Morriston and the Princess of Wales hospitals need to be upgraded to meet modern requirements like better disability access, as well as needing general refurbishment.**

**“It’s difficult to do this work when the wards are in full use, so having an alternative ward for patients to go will be extremely helpful.**

**“These new units will also be a considerable help at times of high pressure, as they will offer additional bed space when we need it most.”**

The pre-built specialist healthcare modular units can be erected fairly quickly onsite, compared to traditional build. They are purpose-designed, compliant with modern building, health and technical regulations, and cost effective.

The Morriston ward may have two storeys; to go on the site of the old ‘bubble corridor’ after it is dismantled. It will be a fully installed unit complete with foundations and services. The units, approximately 1,100 m2 will provide 30 beds, including six four-bedded bays and six single-bedded rooms.

At the Princess of Wales Hospital the similar-sized unit, just off the main corridor, will be on a single floor, providing 28/30 beds; again in a mixture of bays and single rooms.

The two units, which are expected to cost just over £7m, will also have facilities including bathrooms and toilets - some ensuite - storage space, treatment rooms, staff offices and utility rooms.

If planning permission is granted, work is hoped to begin later this year and be ready in 2018.

Source: [Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board](http://www.abm.wales.nhs.uk/)