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Date: 30.10.2018

Chief Executive
ABMU Health Board
One Talbot Gateway
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Dear Ms Myhill, *Tracy*

I write following the October meeting of ABM CHC's Executive Committee to advise you of our discussions and determination in relation to proposals to locate thoracic services for adults in south and west Wales and south Powys at a single site in Morriston.

The Executive Committee considered the WHSSC Consultation Report with specific reference to the individual responses from people in the ABM area.

The Executive Committee was satisfied that ABM CHC had been adequately consulted before and during the public engagement and consultation process and that the process had been adequate in relation to content and time allowed.

The Executive Committee expressed concern that the post consultation process had been less transparent and felt that there were lessons to be learnt for future regional service change including;

- the need to plan carefully to enable sufficient time for CHCs to consider the responses to issues raised by their population and,
- the need to share responses to issues raised before papers are published to enable CHC commentary to inform the final report.

The Executive Committee welcomed the Health Board's decision to postpone its consideration of Thoracic Services until the November 2018 Board meetings to allow CHCs to fulfil their statutory responsibilities. It was satisfied that this had afforded adequate time to fully consider the report and provide a commentary.

The Executive Committee noted that there were 804 responses received to the consultation overall, 198 of these from the ABM area.

In answer to Question 1:

"The Independent Panel recommended that the adult thoracic surgery centre serving patients from South and West Wales and South Powys should be located in Morriston Hospital, Swansea. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal?"

It was noted that overall:

- 339 or 42.16% agreed with the proposal
- 428 or 53.23% disagreed with the proposal
- 34 or 4.23% neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal
- 3 or 0.37% did not answer the question

The Executive Committee noted that of respondents from the ABM area:

- 93.5% agreed with the proposal
- 5% disagreed with the proposal
- 1.5% neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal

The majority of people in ABM supported the recommendations, largely citing the following reasons:

- Accessibility for West Wales
- Potential of a single centre to improve outcomes
- Importance of investing in services outside Cardiff

Where people disagreed, the following reasons were given:

- They felt that 2 units would better serve the population

- They had concerns that thoracic and major trauma should be co-located

The Executive Committee noted that the response provided by WHSSC to both these issues was based upon clinical evidence, and therefore beyond the scope of the CHC's determination.

In answer to questions 2 and 3

"If we develop the adult thoracic surgery centre for South east and West Wales and South Powys in Morriston Hospital in Swansea, what are the important things that you would like us to consider about the planning and delivery of the new service?"

and

"Are there any other comments you would like to make?"

Respondents from the ABM area raised a number of issues in relation to:

- The need for adequate funding and resources
- Effective patient pathways including outpatients, repatriation and rehabilitation with good communication between services
- Transport and accommodation for patients and families
- Parking
- Impact on other services within Morriston eg ITU, HDU, pathology, radiology etc.
- Workforce including the need for a well-developed multi-disciplinary team

The Executive Committee considered the responses provided by WHSSC and determined that further clarity and assurance was required in relation to the following:

Funding

It was noted that proposals were based on an assumption that delivery of the service would be on a cost neutral basis plus 20% additional activity. WHSSC report that "If existing resources are found

to be inadequate to provide this, we will deal with this through the normal WHSSC process”

Executive Committee asked that the health board:

- provide more detail to assure the public in the ABM area that any further costs identified during implementation would be met by all involved health boards and not solely by ABMU.

Travel and accommodation

It was noted that the response provided by WHSSC did not provide assurance that accommodation would be available for patient’s families or that there would be support for travel.

The Executive Committee asked the health board:

- To clarify whether families of thoracic patients would have access to existing family accommodation on the Morriston site.
- To give further consideration to the issues of transport and accommodation raised by people in the ABM area.

Parking

It was noted that the response provided by WHSSC did not address concerns about parking.

The Executive Committee members recognised that parking at Morriston had greatly improved over recent months and asked that the health board:

- provide a response to the issue of parking raised by people in the ABM area.

Co-dependencies and impact on other services

It noted that the response provided by WHSCC focussed in large part on co-dependencies with services in UHW.

The Executive Committee was concerned that there was little detail or mitigation provided in relation to any impact on services within ABM.

It asked the health board to:

- give further consideration to the issues raised and provide assurance that any impact and necessary mitigation has been considered.

Workforce

The Executive Committee considered that the response from WHSSC did not fully address concerns about the need for a strong multi-disciplinary team or respond to concerns that staff may not transfer from Cardiff.

- It asked that the health board give this further consideration

The Executive Committee considered the response provided to issues surrounding patient pathways provided sufficient assurance.

In addition to its responsibility to represent the interests of its population, ABM CHC must in making its determination consider the interests of wider NHS services. To this end it asked that the health board in reaching its decision give due regard to the matters raised by respondents from outside its own district.

The Executive Committee approved the proposal to locate thoracic services for adults in south and west Wales and south Powys at a single site in Morriston subject to further clarity and assurance as set out above.

Yours sincerely,



Cathy Moss / Clare Jenkins
Chief Officer