

## **Integrated Care and Support in North Torfaen**

### **Service Reconfiguration and Improvement Plan Update November 2009**

#### **1 Introduction**

This briefing note confirms the commitment from statutory agencies to update progress on the service reconfiguration work spanning health, social care and housing in North Torfaen. We have undertaken to provide updates approximately every six months and this document outlines the position since the last briefing note (8/2009) in June of this year.

#### **2 Reorganisation of the NHS in Wales**

Public and partners will most likely be aware that there has been a major re-organisation of the NHS in Wales, and from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 the Aneurin Bevan Health Board came into being replacing the five Local Health Boards in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen as well as the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust.

Front line services have continued with 'business as usual' throughout this period. Work linked with major policy and planning decisions has continued to ensure that the new Health Board is able to make progress with partnership plans in line with arrangements made by the predecessor bodies.

#### **3 Community Based Care**

Since the last update briefing in June there has been a successful outline planning application made for the Blaenavon community campus in June 2009. This covers the planned new school for Blaenavon, linked leisure facilities and the proposed Primary Care Resource Centre. Following on from this there will need to be detailed planning permission for each of the component buildings.

Following extensive work with all services and users, who would use the Primary Care Resource Centre, and with agencies such as District Valuers, a final business case for this has been submitted to Welsh Assembly at the end of October 2009. The case will then be considered by an Assembly-based Estates Management Board. It is anticipated that they will make a decision by the middle of November, and assuming that approval is given, then there will be a submission for detailed planning permission. If approval is not given, then we will be seeking advice on revisions and alternatives.. Either way, information will be conveyed to stakeholders as soon as decision is known.

#### **4 Blaenavon Health Care Unit**

Current staffing support difficulties have forced the Aneurin Bevan Health Board to take the decision, purely in the interests of patient safety, to stop admissions to the Blaenavon Health Care Unit on a temporary basis from the beginning of November for a period of at least two weeks.

The unit currently has four patients on the ward, and NHS staff are working with local authority social care staff to ensure that these patients are able to move safely to alternative accommodation that will provide the appropriate care support. The families of those patients have been contacted and will be kept fully engaged in the transfer or discharge process.

There will be no change to the scheduled clinics for the District Nursing team and the pharmacy service which will continue to be available in the upper part of the Health Care Unit. The ward staff currently provide a minor injuries services and wound dressing service between Monday and Friday, 9am to 5pm. The wound dressing service, for which the majority of patients attend, will be re-provided on site as a daily clinic however people attending for minor injuries will be re-directed to Nevill Hall hospital.

You will be aware that the medium term plans are to close the Blaenavon Health Care Unit with community facilities transferring to the planned Primary Care Resource Centre, and the NHS supporting a number of beds within the community. We are still planning for this, but do have to take this short term measure to ensure that expected standards of clinical safety are maintained. The re-provision of the wound dressing service and the temporary closure of the minor injuries service are in line with these medium term plans.

#### **5 Bed Based Care**

The need to temporarily stop admissions to Blaenavon Health Care Unit in November is a short term measure responding to safety issues, but we are taking longer term steps to develop community beds and associated support services.

As the build of a new wing at the Arthur Jenkins care home has been delayed for the immediate future, discussions have opened with the provider to look at NHS supported beds being available within the existing home. This has to be done in partnership between the home, the NHS and the local authority taking account of existing contracts, current demands and scope to deploy staff.

There is also work underway between Bron Afon, Social Care and Housing and the NHS to raise awareness of the short stay units in sheltered housing in north Torfaen to encourage full utilisation. An open event for health and care professionals is being planned for late November.

Intermediate Care services continue to work to bring people out of hospital more quickly or to prevent hospital admissions taking place. Since the last

briefing update there has been the development of a focused Falls service, which covers the whole of Torfaen.

Use of Telecare to support people in their own home and manage risk has also expanded, with over 700 people across Torfaen now having some telecare equipment packages.

## **6 Partnership Working and Public Engagement**

Development of new service models supported by new, fit for purpose facilities, has taken more time than was initially envisaged. Staff working within North Torfaen are aware of and share many of the concerns and frustrations that the public have expressed – they are stakeholders in this process as well.

We have recognised the importance of regularly engaging with and updating all stakeholders and we are planning to hold a 'drop in' engagement event in December for people to ask questions and see for themselves the latest plans. Arrangements are currently being finalised for this event and we will circulate further details in the near future.

The timetable for taking forward development is becoming clearer, and there remains a strong commitment to delivering high quality services for North Torfaen residents.

To pass on your views or be kept in touch please contact:

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Please also take the opportunity to be kept informed of the campus development through the following website link:

[www.torfaen.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/BlaenavonCommCampus](http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/BlaenavonCommCampus)