



Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Local Health Board

Tor-faen
Torfaen

North Torfaen Consultation Feedback



Introduction—Where have we come from?

Over the last two years, Torfaen Local health Board in conjunction with Torfaen County Borough Council, have been planning the reconfiguration of health, social care and housing services for North Torfaen, to improve the way we support local people's needs.

Following consultation in 2005 on the LHB's Integrated Service and Estates Strategy, the preferred service model for primary health care was - *'more local, clinically safe services delivered by health and social care staff working closely together, from a combination of existing and new buildings.'*

Further public engagement in March 2006 for North Torfaen, highlighted the preferred option to be - *'The development of a new GP Primary Care Resource Centre which includes community nursing, clinics, information and advice, health and social care outreach, space for voluntary groups/ peer support and well-being sessions, pharmacy, community dentistry and diagnostic testing.'*

A formal consultation period, overseen by the Gwent Community Health Council was taken forward in November 29th 2007 to February 29th 2008. This briefing note summarises the outcomes.

Summary of Responses

In addition to views expressed at public and informal local meetings, over 30 written response forms were returned during the consultation period and a wide range of comments were received. A majority agreed with the proposed new model of service and locations in North Torfaen, with a number of helpful and constructive comments being received. There were also some objections, with many of these centring on the location being on the site of the former leisure centre in Blaenavon.

Some issues included -

- Need for locally accessible mental health support
- Continuing need for a minor injuries/ first aid service
- Providing support for mothers and young children
- Drug awareness and healthy living/ exercise information for young people
- Having space for self help/ expert patient groups
- Support for increased numbers of older people

There were also concerns raised, including -

- Loss of swimming pool which may have an impact on healthy lifestyles
- Public transport access to new site needs to be considered
- Need for locally available beds for care and rehabilitation
- Increased traffic to the proposed new site

Overall, there has been a positive response for the proposed service model, and we recognise that community engagement is vital as we take forward making the new services a reality.

We are now firming up plans for the new Primary Care Health and Well-being Centre, and all comments made will be considered in our planning. These plans will be available to view in public buildings in the area as detailed planning consent is sought.

Updates on the Primary Care Resource Centre development will be a regular feature in Torfaen Talks, the Torfaen County Borough Council newsletter that goes to all households, as part of the update of regeneration of Blaenavon

Next steps

The Community Health Council (CHC) are developing a formal report on the consultation process, which will be submitted ahead of any planning development application. This will provide recommendations to the LHB and Council, who will make the final submission to the Welsh Assembly Government for approval to develop the Resource Centre

The consultation will also be discussed at the next CHC Area meeting which will be held on the 23rd April 2008 in Blaenavon Workmens Hall at 5pm, where members of the public are welcome to attend.