

# Board Bulletin

## A summary of items discussed at the public meeting of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Items discussed at the Public Board meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### Maternity Services

The Board received a report on the decision to temporarily close the Midwifery-Led Birthing Units at Nevill Hall Hospital and the Royal Gwent Hospital and to reduce the operating hours at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, from week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 until September 2022, centralising some services and staff at the Grange University Hospital. The temporary change was triggered by significant concerns regarding staffing levels across Midwifery, with high sickness absence rates (9%), high vacancies (21 WTE) and high maternity leave. The situation will be closely monitored with a review in 6 weeks. It is important to note that these changes are an anticipatory response and there have been no reportable patient safety issues as a direct result of the staffing challenges. The Board thanked staff for their continuing commitment, flexibility and hard work in difficult circumstances and were appreciative of the public response and understanding as a result of the temporary service change.

### Adferiad Programme

The great work of the Post-COVID Recovery Service was presented to the Board. The service has been developed in response to the experience of patients with prolonged and frequently unpredictable symptoms following COVID-19 infection. Often described as 'long covid' the presentations have similarities with other post viral conditions, but the experience is unique for every individual. Previously, no single service existed that could respond to the wide range of symptom presentations or the need for ongoing support, either for adults or for children and young people. The service was delivered with £940,000 of funding from the Welsh Government. The Board were pleased to hear the great work that has taken place and to hear the patient story presented. For more information on this service, please access through the link below:

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/post-covid-recovery/>

### Satellite Radiotherapy Unit

The Board approved the draft full business case for submission to Welsh Government for the Satellite Radiotherapy Unit at Nevill Hall Hospital. This is an exciting development as the unit will provide additional radiotherapy capacity for residents in Gwent and South East Wales, making access to radiotherapy treatment more accessible for our residents.

## Business Continuity Review

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Health Board declared Business Continuity (black status) for the first time since its inception. The Board received a report for assurance on the decisions that was made, and the lessons learned from this experience. The Board gave thanks to our staff, the Executive Team and to The Welsh Ambulance Service and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board for the support they provided during this time.

## People Plan 2022-2025

The Board were pleased to approve Our People Plan 2022-2025; Putting People First. The plan outlines the 3-year forward view of our people priorities as a Health Board. The plan describes how the Health Board will develop and enhance the capacity and capability of our workforce with a clear focus on wellbeing, inclusion, and engagement. The plan describes the 3-year journey and the ambitions of the Health Board around three core objectives:

- Staff Health & Wellbeing,
- Employer of Choice,
- Creating opportunities for Workforce Sustainability and Transformation ensuring that we have the right workforce models that embed innovative thinking.

Regular updates on progress made against the plan will be provided to the Board and staff on a regular basis.

## Nurse Staffing Levels

The Board received the statutory annual assurance report on compliance with the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act (NSLWA), approving the report for submission to Welsh Government. The Act sets out the Health Board's overarching responsibility to ensure robust workforce plans and adequate nursing staff to provide sensitive and dignified care, whether in provided or commissioned services. The Board noted the significant work to reduce vacancies, secure overseas nurses and develop new roles to support patient care.