

Report - Rhayader Health Focus Group, Tuesday 2 July 2019

Well attended meeting, chaired by Mrs Gwen Jones.

Carol Shillabeer, CEO Powys Teaching Health Board had been invited to address the group on a variety of subjects. Carol gave an update on the extensive work at Llandrindod Wells hospital, this work is being done to ensure an increase and upgrade in services provided from the hospital.

Rurality increases costs in general, but PHTB have kept within the government budget and are now able to focus on the future and development of health and care strategy. To focus on keeping well starting from an early age with awareness of cancer, mental health, respiratory and circulatory diseases. Wet MD services are available at a clinic in Brecon.

There are always concerns over staffing levels and the ability to recruit and keep staff, at all levels and skills. There need to be different ways to provide other services. Not just medical staff but all trades linked in to care and upkeep of buildings, finance staff, plumbers etc. The workforce challenge means that other ways of training must be considered, a transformation fund for apprenticeship training, working with nearby Universities to consider a school of nursing.

There are emergency dental services available and there is always the availability for more NHS dentists.

Collaboration between PCC and PHTB for social care assessments and sharing some services will continually improve re-ablement and community care services.

There have always been apparent problems over cross-border issues, with a myth about Powys not paying and Welsh patients being made to wait longer for treatment. There have never been any financial disputes, costing rules vary, and treatment target times are 18 weeks in England, 26 weeks in Wales. There is different funding in Wales with free prescriptions and free hospital parking.

Mental health services give out of hours support with the CRISIS team, there is an acute unit at Bronllys. Some clients will need to receive cross border treatment because of the need for specialist treatment. IT based talking therapies are now readily available for anxiety, mild depression, sleep problems.

All present were invited to attend the forthcoming AGM of PTHB.

The next meeting of Health Focus Group will be held in September.