

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Director General Health and Social Services/
NHS Wales Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Darren Millar AM
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Our Ref: AG/SR/TLT

9 March 2016

Dear Mr Millar

Public Accounts Committee Report – Wider issues emanating from the governance review of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Initial Views on the Report

I outline below the Welsh Government initial response at official level to the above report, published on 26 February.

The Welsh Government will provide a full response to the report and the 27 recommendations in the fifth Assembly. In the interim please find below some initial views and update for your final meeting scheduled for 15 March.

The recent consultation on the Green Paper *Our Health, Our Health Service* received responses and comments on a number of areas highlighted in your report, including health board membership and leadership, achieving collaboration and partnership working and effective regulation and inspection. The Minister for Health and Social Services said at the outset that this exercise would helpfully inform the incoming government. Whilst the report on the consultation responses received sets out the main findings, it is underpinned by a rich source of information to inform and enable the next Government to bring forward any detailed proposals. This report and its recommendations will provide further evidence for consideration for the next Welsh Government.

The report also considered how Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board was responding to special measures and progress being made. The Welsh Government published the

improvement framework for the health board on the 29 January setting out clearly the expectations and milestones it will need to meet during the next two years. The health board will report on the first six months in May 2016, including progress on the key areas highlighted in your report – mental health and GP out-of-hours services.

The new chief executive started in post on 29 February and has clearly set out his priorities within his first few months including addressing a number of specific areas - mental health, primary care, unscheduled care and waiting times and evidence that the health board is making progress against all the requirements of the special measures improvement framework.

I note the reference to overspend contained in the report and press release, but this has not focussed on the improvement that was expected and has now happened, based on my letter to you. The Health and Social Services Minister has also been clear that he expects the health and social services budget will break even at year end, and this remains the case.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Goodall', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Goodall