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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board



Meeting Date	27 th September 2018			Agenda Item	4iii.
Report Title	Future Provision of General Medical Services				
Report Author	Richard Williams – Primary Care Support Manager Laura Jones – Primary Care Manager				
Report Sponsor	Chris White –Chief Operating Officer				
Presented by	Hilary Dover – Director Primary and Community Services				
Freedom of Information	Open				
Purpose of the Report	To request that the Board approve a contract variation to facilitate a practice merger with effect from 1 st November 2018 between the Gowerton and Penybryn practices.				
Key Issues	The Primary Care Team have been working to support the merger of Gowerton Medical Centre and Penybryn Surgery, Gorseinon which is due to take effect from 1 st November 2018. A project group with membership from the Health Board, NWIS, Shared Services and both practices has been established.				
Specific Action Required (please ✓ one only)	Information	Discussion	Assurance	Approval	✓
Recommendations	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• APPROVE a contract variation to facilitate the practice merger with effect from 1st November 2018.				

FUTURE PROVISION OF GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

The Primary Care Team have been working to support the merger of Gowerton Medical Centre and Penybrynn Surgery, Gorseinon which is due to take effect from 1st November 2018. Approval is now sought for a contract variation to facilitate the merger with effect from 1st November 2018.

2. BACKGROUND

Penybrynn Surgery was originally a four GP practice. The practice list size of 4,887, is currently being managed by the one remaining GP partner, assisted by a salaried GP and supplemented with regular locum sessions. The situation is becoming untenable, with the GP partner being “on-call” even when taking leave, and presents a high risk to the Health Board providing general medical services for the practice population.

The changes to the GP contract for 2015/16 and 2016/17 included a commitment to address the sustainability of GP practices through the development of an evidence based approach, including a risk matrix, to assess the extent to which access and the continuity of services is affected. A revised sustainability assessment framework was updated for 2017/18 to provide a holistic way of reviewing a practice's vulnerability by applying a Red / Amber / Green (RAG) weighted score against the risk matrix criteria.

The sustainability risk score for Penybrynn is 73 (Amber). Gowerton has a sustainability risk score of 24 (Green).

The Llwchwr Cluster Network practices are keen to support each other, and a subsequent discussion between Gowerton and Penybrynn GPs concluded that a merger would prove the optimal solution.

Both practices have overlapping geographical areas within the Llwchwr Cluster Network and importantly share the same values.

Following the merger, the locations of the practices will remain unchanged and services will be provided from the existing premises. Gowerton Medical Centre will operate as the main practice premises, with both Penybrynn and Penclawdd sites acting as two branch surgeries.

The merging of the GMS partnerships and contracts will allow the practices to form a larger business structure. The merged practice would comprise:

- 11 GP partners
- 3 salaried GPs
- 2 GP registrars
- 6 practice nurses

In addition, there will be shared pharmacist, counsellor and primary care liaison mental health nurse.

The merged practice will serve a patient population of circa 19,000 over three sites; more importantly, it will future proof the practices in terms of sustainability within the Llwchwr Cluster Network.

From a patient perspective, the merger would deliver continuity of care with clinical staff they are familiar with. It will also benefit the patients with increased choice, resources, economies and efficiencies that a larger organisation is able to offer. Additionally, patients can elect to be seen at their original practice premises and will have the option to be seen at any of the three sites.

A clinical model has been developed to support the merger of the two practices, which outlines the following:

The opening hours for the new Estuary Group Practice will remain unchanged (Monday to Friday 08.00 to 18.00). The merging of the clinical systems will take place 1st November 2018.

The Estuary Group Practice will offer the same wide range of Enhanced Services as patients currently receive from Gowerton Medical Centre. Consequently, the merger will actually result in a further range of enhanced services for current Penybrynn patients; including Complex Wound Care, Diabetes, INR, Minor Surgery and Phlebotomy. All work associated with the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) will be unaffected and will continue.

The sustainability risk score for the Estuary Group Practice will be 24 (Green) and the merger is in line with our having fewer smaller practices as agreed in the Primary and Community Services Strategy.

3. GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES

A comprehensive patient information/engagement plan was submitted to the CHC for consideration and advice, and the following plan was agreed:-

- A letter to every household advising of the proposed changes and how they could comment on them.
- Included with the letter was a list of Frequently Asked Questions
- A four week information/engagement period where patients were asked to complete feedback forms.
- Drop-in sessions at both practices (held on 14th August) for patients to ask the GP's directly any questions they may have.

There has been very limited feedback from the engagement exercise, with only 104 (0.5%) of the 19,003 combined list size responding via the feedback forms and 18 patients attending the drop-in sessions.

In summary, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and supportive; the crux of uncertainty lies with elderly patients with concerns around having to "go online" to order repeat prescriptions. Patients are being reassured that this is an optional service and that they can continue to order prescriptions by telephone or in person.

Although only four people attended the Gowerton drop-in session, to note in attendance was the local community councillor Mrs Susan Jones. Mrs Jones was concerned that Gowerton Medical Centre would be taking on an extra 5,000 patients with no regard for new building developments taking place in the future. Fears were allayed once it was made clear that Penybryn Surgery was not closing down and that there would not be a huge influx of patients to Gowerton.

Fourteen patients attended the Penybryn session. Although most were quite happy about the merger, some were worried that Penybryn would change to a triage only surgery. All were happy leaving after explanations.

The practices have developed a poster and leaflet which address the few issues raised by patients. These are available at all practice premises.

The merger was originally planned for 1st October 2018, however the practices have since requested that the merger take place on 1st November 2018 to ensure accord with the clinical system merge.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The practices will benefit from the merger framework support financially; along with input from NWIS/Shared Services and the Primary Care Team.

5. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

- **APPROVE** a contract variation to facilitate the practice merger with effect from 1st November 2018.

Governance and Assurance						
Link to corporate objectives <i>(please ✓)</i>	Promoting and enabling healthier communities	Delivering excellent patient outcomes, experience and access	Demonstrating value and sustainability	Securing a fully engaged skilled workforce	Embedding effective governance and partnerships	
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Link to Health and Care Standards <i>(please ✓)</i>	Staying Healthy	Safe Care	Effective Care	Dignified Care	Timely Care	Individual Care
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience						
The merged practice will serve a patient population of circa 19,000 patients over 3 sites. It will facilitate the provision of sustainable general medical services which will assist in addressing the growing demands.						
Financial Implications						
The merger of Gowerton Medical Centre and Penybrynn Surgery will impact on the contract value. The contract value variation will be in the region of £532,000. The practices will benefit from the £25K awarded through the merger framework.						
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)						
There are no legal implications contained within this report.						
Staffing Implications						
Although not the responsibility of ABMU Health Board, we are not aware of any implications for existing staff at both practices.						
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)						
Continuation of the provision of General Medical Services to the practice population. Greater patient choice – patients can choose to be seen at premises possibly closer to their home address. Access to a larger healthcare team and a greater range of Enhanced Services for the Penybrynn patients, supporting care closer to home.						
Report History	None					
Appendices	None					