

**Report To: Council**

**Date of Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2012**

**Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services**

**Report Author: Director of Modernisation and Wellbeing**

**Title: Council response to Betsi Cadwaladr UHB Service Reviews**

### **1. What is the report about?**

The report recommends a final Council response to the public consultation "Healthcare in North Wales is Changing."

### **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

"Healthcare in North Wales is Changing" and other Service Reviews considered by the BCU Board in July 2012, contain proposals for significant changes to health services across North Wales. A formal consultation process on the proposals extends from 20<sup>th</sup> August to 28<sup>th</sup> October and Council needs to agree formally the proposed response at Appendix I.

### **3. What are the Recommendations?**

For Council to agree the consultation response, attached at Appendix I, for submission to BCUHB.

### **4. Report details.**

4.1 Over the last 2 years, BCUHB has undertaken reviews of seven key areas of the health service i.e.

Localities and Community services

Paediatric services

Maternity, Gynaecology and Neonatal service

Non-elective General surgery

Trauma and Orthopaedics

Older People's Mental Health

Vascular Services

4.2 The result of these reviews "Healthcare in North Wales is Changing: report on service change proposals" was reported to the BCUHB on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

4.3 Council, on 11<sup>th</sup> September, received background information and a summary of the proposals, a copy of the consultation document and a draft response to the proposals prepared by a Working Group of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee. It also received a presentation by representatives of the Health Board and was able to ask questions on key issues.

4.4 Since the Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September, members and officers have discussed the issues further in MAGs, Town and Community Council Cluster meetings, in the formal consultation meetings organised by BCU and through consultation activities organised by the Community Health Council. The draft consultation response has been amended, via a further meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Working Group, to take these discussions into account.

4.5 Key amendments made include

- the need to have a Strategic Group in place for Denbighshire to enable ongoing discussion about the detailed implementation of the proposals (para 1.4)
- stronger wording about the need to have alternative services in place before existing services are closed (paras 1.5, 1.6.4, 1.8.2, 2.3) and for the development of services for carers (1.9.2)
- a proposal that the Health Board consider developing Denbigh Infirmary and Ruthin Hospital as a “joint hospital hub” with complementary functions (para 1.7)
- specific support for the delivery of a Minor Injuries Service in Llangollen (para 1.8.3)

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

Close and integrated working with health services, especially in localities, forms a key part of the Council’s work to respond to demographic change. The BIG Plan also sets out objectives for effective joint working to support families.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

The potential costs to BCUHB were set out in para 4.7 of the report to Council on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Disinvestment from an old pattern of services, reinvestment in new services and dealing with an underlying deficit are major challenges for the Health Board. There is a risk that in the process of change, especially as services transfer to communities, that increased costs will transfer to local authorities, especially in adult social care, though there could also be implications for transport provision.

## **7. What consultations have been carried out and has an Equality Impact Assessment Screening been undertaken?**

BCUHB has carried out equality impact assessment screening on their proposals and will do further work before final proposals are submitted to the Board. The Partnerships Scrutiny Working Group, and officers, have contributed to the draft response. Meetings of MAGs and Town and Community Council clusters also

considered the proposals during September and will continue to do so through early October.

## **8. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The changes that are proposed are not fully costed at this stage so the implication on council services is not clear. Issues such as transport need to be considered and there is the risk that, as services are provided more in the community additional costs will inevitably fall on the Council's social care teams. BCU began the financial year with a forecast £82m deficit on its budget. Despite a one off contribution of £17m from the Welsh Government and use of contingencies it has not yet been able to achieve its savings targets. These proposals will see short term costs rise by £15m with an assumption that savings will be delivered going forward. Even at the best case scenario contained in the consultation, the organisation will still be left with a significant deficit.

## **9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The key risks are referred to para 8 above and throughout the draft response at Appendix I. Key actions to mitigate the risks identified are for detailed costed implementation plans to be produced for the changes proposed and discussed via a proposed Strategic Group This would enable the impact to be transparent and enable full discussion and negotiation with the local authority about how, where there is interface with Council responsibilities, the new pattern of services can be organised and funded.

## **10. Power to make the Decision**

S111 Local Government Act 1972