

<b>NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Service Scrutiny Committee -Care</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>20-06-2013</b>
<b>TITLE OF ITEM</b>	<b>Dryll y Car</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	<b>Councillor R H Wyn Williams</b>

## **WHAT IS DRYLL Y CAR ?**

Dryll y Car is an 8 bedded in-patient service on a sub-acute, step up and step down basis for the populations of both Gwynedd and Anglesey, located in Barmouth, Meirionnydd.

It offers a 24 hour service in a therapeutic and safe environment.

However, it is an isolated stand alone unit, which has Health and Safety consequences for both patients and staff.

There are issues concerning the fragility and sustainability of medical staffing.

The use of the facility has been limited (low bed occupancy) because of:

- Location
- Isolation in relation to other MH services
- Multi Occupancy rooms ( 3 doubles )

The need to provide minimal staffing ratios makes it an expensive service as there is under occupancy.

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE USE**

BCUHB set up an Option Development Task and Finish Group in respect of this facility, which included representatives from across Health and Social Services, the Third Sector and service users.

Issues for consideration were :

- Base for staff which was accessible in relation to geography and travel time
- Where clinical /interventional services would be provided from
- Co-location and integration of Mental Health teams
- Opportunities for respite and crisis prevention
- Clarification of Health and Social Care responsibilities for providing respite
- Acknowledgment of the service providing a range of interventions across acute, rehabilitation and community domains

Four options were identified:

**Option 1** No change

**Option 2** Enhancement of in –patient services

**Option 3** Develop a Community Based Model around Home Treatment and enhanced community Mental Health Team input. Further Develop Third Sector involvement

**Option 4** Community and Third Sector Development. As above with a wider range of services – for example, use of Adult Placement Scheme for short term respite or part of discharge initiatives.

Option 4 was considered the option of choice.

## **VIEW OF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL.**

The CHC agreed to these proposals provided that :

- Both the community Mental Health Team and Home Treatment scheme in Meirionnydd were enhanced as the result of staff transfers.
- An Accredited Accommodation Scheme was established although it was accepted that this would take time.
- Patients had better access to medical services in terms of assessments and monitoring.

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

A proposed date for the closure of Dryll y Car has been identified – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013. No further admissions will be considered after 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Staff are being supported to make decisions about future employment and every consideration will be given to their preferred options in terms of settings ( Home Treatment, CMHT ). Staff interviews are to begin 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

BCUHB is working with partners and service users to establish a community based clinical pathway to ensure patients are fully supported after the closure of the Unit.

Current patients who use the facility will be assessed and their views ascertained as to their preferred alternatives.

## **VIEW OF SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Social Services fully support the direction of travel and the aim of establishing and strengthening community mental health services. Dryll y Car was a service much appreciated by the small number of patients who used the facility but there is no doubt that the resources freed can be used to serve more patients in a more flexible and safer way. The Mental Health Services are confident that the patient using Dryll y Car will not be disadvantaged in anyway by its closure as other alternative services can be provided.

This is not to underestimate the challenge in setting up robust community based services and ensuring a sustainable medical presence especially in a rural area.

One of the issues highlighted has been the need to discriminate between health and social care responsibilities in terms of respite care. Some service users may now find that they will need to contribute financially to their respite care if they do not qualify for health services. Community based services will be capped at the Welsh

Government level of £50 per week. Residential based services will be charged according to CRAG regulations. However, any impact on service users or the Social Services Department will be minimal as people attending Dryll y Car require health services which will now be provided in the community.