

Meeting	Care Scrutiny Committee
Date	21 September 2017
Subject	Health in Blaenau Ffestiniog
Chairman	Cllr Eryl Jones Williams, Chairman of the Care Scrutiny Committee
Author	Gareth James, Member Manager - Support and Scrutiny

## Background

1. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Care Scrutiny Committee was held on 4 September 2017 following on from the following notice of motion that was submitted by Councillor Glyn Daniels to a meeting of the full Council on 15 June, 2017:

**"I propose that Gwynedd Council supports the Hospital Defence Committee and the residents of Blaenau Ffestiniog to press on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and relevant authorities to ensure that appropriate and necessary facilities are provided in the new hospital being built in the town.**

**With this I mean facilities that are usually found in local hospitals, such as an x-ray unit, minor injuries unit and a sufficient number of beds for inpatients. Given that Blaenau Ffestiniog is the third largest town in Gwynedd and also that the response of the vast majority of residents in a recent referendum insisted that the town deserved to be treated in a better way, I believe that there is no reason why the Council should not support this proposal."**

**RESOLVED to refer the matter immediately to the Care Scrutiny Committee and to discuss it as soon as possible."**

2. Representatives from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital Defence Committee were invited to submit relevant information and evidence regarding the suitability of the proposed health provision for the residents of Blaenau Ffestiniog and surrounding area.
3. Following the discussion, six recommendations were agreed, but that the final wording of the recommendations to be presented to the next meeting of the committee for their agreement. These recommendations as follows:
  - (i) **That the Care Scrutiny Committee calls on the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to share the full background information that was part of the original decision to change the provision of health facilities and services in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area.**

- (ii) That the Scrutiny Committee calls on the Health Board to regularly monitor information and data in relation to the effectiveness of the current health services in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area and the wellbeing of its inhabitants and to make a commitment to change the provision if there is evidence to do so. The Committee is of the opinion that it would be beneficial for this work to be done by an independent agency and that the information is presented to the attention of the Care Scrutiny Committee within a reasonable time scale.**
- (iii) Following the information submitted by the Blaenau Ffestiniog Defence Committee about the lack of response to petitions and correspondence in the past; that the Board gives detailed consideration to engagement and consultation deficiencies in the past in order to improve their arrangements for the future. The Health Board is encouraged to engage regularly and effectively with residents of the Blaenau Ffestiniog area in relation to the provision of health facilities and services locally.**
- (iv) To ask the Cabinet Member for the Environment and the Cabinet Member for Care to undertake an assessment of travel needs and obstacles of community and public services to health services in the catchment area of Ysbyty Alltwen. Whilst priority be given to this catchment area, that consideration be given to the value of holding a similar exercise in other areas.**
- (v) That the need for suitable housing for older people including the provision of extra care homes in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area be thoroughly researched jointly with the Care Cabinet Member, Housing, Leisure and Culture Cabinet Member and the Gwynedd Housing Partnership.**
- (vi) That the Scrutiny Committee calls on the Health Board and Gwynedd Council to co-operate closely and to take suitable practical steps to recruit care and health staff so that full teams are in place to maintain services in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area and across the County.**

4. Members of the Scrutiny Committee are asked to agree on the final wording.