

## **ITEM 8 - QUESTIONS**

### **Questions by Elected Members**

#### **1. Question by Councillor Huw Rowlands**

Is the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being aware of the growing public frustration at the significant delay by Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and Grŵp Cynefin in establishing a health centre in Penygroes, namely Canolfan Lleu, and also the significant delay by Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board in establishing a new Health Centre in Waunfawr?

#### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being, Councillor Dilwyn Morgan**

In my role as Chair of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board I work closely with the Health Board and receive regular reports on the situation. These reports are relevant to the plans identified but also to wider plans to improve health provision across the region. I therefore confirm that I am aware of the situation and understand the frustrations.

However, I would like to offer reassurance to the member of the positive work and strong collaboration that is taking place between our social and health services in Dyffryn Nantlle and Waunfawr. Professionals from both organisations hold regular meetings, joint visits, collaborative assessments and multi-disciplinary discussions to ensure that individuals receive the right support at the right time. A strong culture of collaborative problem-solving has developed, and this is true across the county – not just for the areas involved, with staff working creatively and flexibly to find practical solutions to complex needs.

There are good examples of collaboration between health and social care teams to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions, facilitate timely discharge when individuals are ready to leave hospital, and ensure that appropriate support is in place in the community. Close collaboration is also taking place with Tuag Adref services to ensure a proportionate and seamless progression of care for individuals during the transition from hospital back to their homes and communities. These arrangements are proof of the collaboration between local partners with the aim of improving outcomes for local people and to provide more integrated and effective services.

#### **2. Question by Councillor Gruffydd Williams**

Following the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling in the case of For Women Scotland v Scotland Ministers (April 2025) that 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 means biological sex (birth sex), and the latest EHRC guidance confirming that (including the Code of Practice updated in 2026), it follows under the law that allowing "trans women" to enter women-only spaces means that the space can no longer be legally protected as a space for women only. What specific steps has the Council therefore taken, or intends to take, to review and update its policies, procedures and services (e.g. toilets, changing rooms, schools, same-sex services, sport, recruitment) in order to fully incorporate this guidance and when will a report or action plan on this matter be submitted to Cabinet or the Council?

## **Response from the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Llio Elenid Owen**

It is important to note that the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Guidance is currently in draft form and is still subject to further consideration, consultation and development before any final decisions are made.

In the meantime, the Council is aware of the need to prepare and has begun work to understand the potential implications of the draft Code across its services and facilities. This work (through the form of an audit) enables us to consider the need to review the Council's relevant policies, as well as any operational impacts, and assess how existing facilities could be affected if the Code were implemented in its current or amended form.

An example of this work is the intention to redesign some toilets in our offices as part of our wider office plan, looking at the social model of wider accessibility, as well as the judgement, to provide suitable facilities, including the appropriate number of toilets for women and men, in line with guidelines.

We have also modified our guidance in our integrated impact assessment to highlight the supreme court's ruling. The equality officers assist management in completing the impact assessment and discuss it with them as required.

Going forward the Council will carefully consider its duties under equality and human rights legislation and seek to ensure that any future changes are lawful, balanced and proportionate. One of the key principles of the review moving forward will be to uphold the dignity, safety and respect of all individuals, recognising the need to consider and balance a range of protected rights in practice.

It is important to note that Lord Justice Hodge has said that the ruling should not be seen as a victory for one side over the other. Also, that trans people are protected under the Equality Act 2010 in the same way as any other characteristic.

The Council will continue to monitor developments and take any necessary action once the final version of the Code has been published and any associated legal or policy implications have been fully clarified.

The Department is working closely with me as the Cabinet Member and will consider the need to report to Cabinet as necessary.