



Ein cyf/Our ref OAQ(5)0179(HWS)

Steffan Lewis AM
AM for South Wales East

4 July 2017

Dear Steffan,

Further to our exchange in Plenary on 21 June during Health questions, I agreed to write to you with further information regarding cardiology services and performance in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area.

My officials have informed me that at the end of April 2017, there was no one waiting over 36 weeks for a cardiology appointment or treatment within Aneurin Bevan UHB, the only health board in Wales to achieve this. In fact, over the last year, it has been the exception rather than the norm for patients to be waiting over 36 weeks for cardiology in Aneurin Bevan UHB. The health board has informed Welsh Government colleagues that they have sufficient capacity for 2017-18 to meet demand.

Over the coming year, to sustain 36 week performance, increase 26 week performance, reduce length of stay and sustain performance at less than eight weeks for echocardiography diagnostics the health board will:

- Progress community cardiology services using £172k WG/HDIG recurrent revenue allocation for timely treatment of patients with NSTEMI within current guidelines;
- Access to clinically optimal diagnostic modalities in line with the evidence base and best practice guidelines. This will include progression of the 5 year phased plan for cardiac MRI to agreed WHSSC/Joint Committee timescales. In the first instance this will be delivered through increased outsourcing and ultimately a new, localised service at the SCCC.
- Improved access to interventional cardiology diagnostics and treatment facilitated through a 2nd cardiac catheter laboratory at the Royal Gwent Hospital (retention of decant laboratory constructed to support catheter equipment replacement programme in 2016/17)
- A pro-active equipment replacement programme including ultrasound machines and TOE probes;
- Address inequity in the provision of cardiac rehabilitation and heart failure services for Newport and Caerphilly through service expansion (ICF programme)

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Progress Heart Failure ICHOM project and use PROMS to drive service improvement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport