



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Cwm Taf  
Health Board

Your ref/eich cyf:  
Our ref/ein cyf:  
Date/Dyddiad:  
Tel/ffôn:  
Fax/ffacs:  
Email/ebost:  
Dept/adran:

AJW/KAD  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012  
01443 744803  
01443 744800  
Allison.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk  
Chair & Chief Executive

Mr William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

### **Tair Afon Birthing Centre**

Thank you for your letter dated the 10th October 2012, in relation to Tair Afon Birth centre at Ysbyty Cwm Cynon. May I firstly confirm that the only maternity services not relocated to Ysbyty Cwm Cynon in April of this year were those relating to the Midwifery led birthing unit. Antenatal services were transferred as planned to the new build.

As stated in your letter the Tair Afon birth centre was planned to move from Aberdare Hospital to the new build within Ysbyty Cwm Cynon when it opened in April 2012. However due to the low numbers of women accessing this service over a number of years a decision was taken to relocate the Tair Afon birth centre on a temporary basis to Prince Charles Hospital. It was proposed that this would provide an opportunity to review the service and how it may be best provided to ensure as many women as possible had an opportunity to access a low risk birthing experience.

An initial six month evaluation of this temporary service has recently been completed and shared with the local Community Health Council which was well received. In general terms it confirms a higher usage of the facilities by Cynon Valley residents than had previously been achieved in the stand alone service in Aberdare. This increase in use resulted in a 22% rise in the number of women intending to give birth within this service.

Qualitative information was also gathered as part of the evaluation process and although the return rate was low the majority of women were satisfied with their care. In respect of the location of service, the responses by women were divided, and indicated that some would have preferred the birth centre to be located within the Cynon Valley, whilst others indicated that they felt it was important that the birth centre was near to the main Obstetric unit at Prince Charles Hospital.

---

#### **Return Address:**

Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Chair/Cadeirydd: Dr C D V Jones, CBE

Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd: Mrs Allison Williams

As a result of this initial feedback the Community Health Council have requested additional detail in relation to women's views prior to considering this change on a more permanent basis. I would therefore like to confirm that the service will remain under review at the present time whilst further analysis is undertaken.

If however you require any additional information or an update on progress please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Allison Williams**  
**Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd**  
**Cwm Taf Health Board/ Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf**

---

**Return Address:**

Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Chair/Cadeirydd: Dr C D V Jones, CBE

Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd: Mrs Allison Williams