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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref: CEO.230b.0415  
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Dyddiad/Date: 06 July 2015

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Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building  
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William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter seeking Hywel Dda's view regarding the petition received by the Petition's Committee from the Muscular Dystrophy campaign. The petition calls for pressure to be brought on health boards to invest in implementing the recommendations of the Welsh Neuromuscular Network published in November 2013. This report called for investment in a number of national posts which are outlined within the petition and funding for specialist equipment.

Currently Hywel Dda accesses a specialist neuromuscular service hosted by ABMU with the Neuromuscular Family Care Advisor working in partnership with the local professionals providing hands on intervention and support. Of the 187 people who are projected to have a neuromuscular disorder in our patch, 75 adults and 16 children currently access this specialist service.

The WG Neurological Delivery Plan outlines a requirement to improve local services for people who have a neurological condition. In order to achieve this, a base line review has been undertaken which identifies a range of service gaps. One of those gaps is the availability of specialist community neuro rehabilitation. Local experience of a regional approach to condition specific rehabilitation services indicates that the local therapists continue to deliver the on-going hands on neuro rehabilitation.

Consequently it is our considered view that in order to serve our population and reduce gaps in provision we need to adopt a pragmatic approach to the

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Cadeirydd / Chair  
**Mrs Bernardine Rees OBE**

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive  
**Mr Steve Moore**

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Hywel Dda  
Hywel Dda University Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda University Local Health Board

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda University Health Board operates a smoke free environment

delivery of specialist community neuro rehabilitation, initially by establishing core specialist community neuro rehabilitation MDT working for a range of neurological conditions including muscular dystrophy.

Our intentions are outlined within our local Neurology Delivery Plan and include the establishment of a specialist neurological multidisciplinary team working locally across Hywel Dda. This team will include an Advanced Practice Physiotherapist and Advanced Practice Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist and Neuropsychologist supported by the current Neuromuscular Family Care Advisor for South Wales and additional Consultant neurology capacity.

This model fits more readily into a rural setting and is modelled on looking at the broader needs of people with neurological conditions and would make more sense and provide better value than developing further regional or national specialist posts which often don't provide the best access for more distant populations such as ours.

Our views are based on work that has been undertaken within our Population Health Programme, established to promote measurable system improvements in Health and Wellbeing for individuals, families and carers. One of the groups within the programme, as part of completing the baseline assessment of need for neurological conditions and has considered these needs in workshop settings together with service users, West Wales Neurological Alliance, a range of clinicians from Hywel Dda and ABMU and social care professionals in order to inform our model and action plan. The Neuromuscular Family Care Advisor for SW Wales has actively supported the Group in its work.

The Specialist MDT model described above has been proposed by the Population Health Group for early implementation utilising Welsh Government investment available to implement the Neurology delivery plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

**Steve Moore**  
**Chief Executive**