

£3m funding to improve cancer services at Withybush

The funding will enable the hospital's existing Ward 10 to be modernised to improve safety, clinical quality and provide a better environment for patients and staff. The former Ward 9 area will also be developed to serve as a ward area to allow Ward 10 patients to be cared for while the building works are carried out on the existing Ward 10, which will close for refurbishment.

The local community in Pembrokeshire has played a significant part in helping to raise funds to improve these facilities with over £450,000 being raised to date by the Health Board's Pembrokeshire Cancer Services Fund and Elly's Ward 10 Flag Appeal.

Health Secretary, Vaughan Gething said:

"I am very happy to be able to announce the £3.15m funding to complete the improvements to Wards 9 and 10 at Withybush Hospital. This project will transform these services at the hospital to provide a modern fit-for-purpose environment for staff, patients and their families. It was a pleasure to meet with staff and the Neville family today. Elly's fundraising efforts have been truly inspirational and the new facility will be a tribute to her hard work and dedication."

Hywel Dda University Health Board Chair, Bernardine Rees OBE, said:

"This is fantastic news for Pembrokeshire. I wish to pay tribute to our staff, fundraisers and partners, for their part in reaching this milestone in the project, particularly Elly's Ward 10 Flag Appeal. We look forward to moving forward at pace now to make these improvements for our local population."

Lyn Neville, Elly's father, said:

"On behalf of Elly's Ward 10 Flag Appeal we are very pleased that the funding has been given for Ward 10 which will be another step towards providing excellent cancer services for Pembrokeshire. On a personal note after many years of campaigning for Ward 10 I am also very pleased that, as seen with the new Pembrokeshire Haematology & Oncology Day Unit (PHODU), patients and staff will be able to receive and deliver care in excellent new facilities."

Work is expected to start shortly and be completed by the summer of 2019.

Minister gets BID to boost local economy off the ground with Neath visit

Housing and Regeneration Minister Rebecca Evans will announce the £270,000 funding with a visit to meet local traders in Neath to learn about how their Business Improvement District is making a difference to the town.

Business Improvement Districts are an innovative way of bringing local businesses together by pooling their resources to work as a team. Once the BID is agreed via a ballot, each business contributes financially via a levy, which is then used to fund the agreed activities set out in the Business Plan. These could include marketing, promotion and events, car parking, tackling anti-social behaviour, improving access to towns, or work to make the area more attractive.

Rebecca Evans said:

“The momentum for BIDs is growing across the UK and we’re aware of the real impact they create in towns across Wales, but setting them up takes time, effort and support, which is why we provide Welsh Government funding to get them off the ground.

“Neath Inspired, the Business Improvement District, has developed effective partnerships with the town and county council on several projects, including supporting events, providing hanging baskets and Christmas lights. Members can access social media and marketing training, and their website advertises some fantastic local festivals.”

Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:

“Collectively, the eight established Business Improvement Districts which have already received our support will generate over £5m private investment to support activities in their area over the next five years. These projects are supporting economic development and town centre regeneration, making our high streets more attractive and vibrant places to visit.

“We know that a number of towns across Wales are looking at this sustainable funding model, and I hope we see many more potential

BIDs come forward as a result of the funding. We are also keen to encourage themed BIDs such as Tourism and Industrial BIDs alongside traditional town centre BIDs”

Andrew Shufflebotham who is the Neath Inspired BID manager, strongly recommends that other towns consider applying for the new funding. He said:

“Towns benefit from establishing a successful BID, especially smaller independent retailers and businesses, where the BID levy is used effectively to increase footfall into the BID area.”

Energy and Clean Growth cross-border opportunity

Addressing the North Wales and Mersey Dee Energy and Clean Growth Summit in Runcorn on Thursday the Cabinet Secretary will say:

“North Wales and the North West have a lot in common. It is only right that we are considering cross-border approaches to address clean growth and decarbonisation.

“In Wales we are facing up to these challenges. Our Economic Action Plan sets out how we will work with others to respond to the task ahead. We will now address projects on how well they meet our call for action on decarbonisation, enter into an economic contract with investing companies on reducing the carbon footprint of their wider activities, and still aim to secure economic growth through the wider supply chain.

“The future prospects of the nuclear sector within our respective regions also depend on healthy cross border collaboration. Wylfa Newydd on Anglesey and the potential for small reactor technologies at Trawsfynydd provide opportunities for supply chain development and investment in our people across North Wales and North West England. We continue to work closely with the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone Board, the UK Government and other stakeholders to explore the potential for Trawsfynydd to host first of a kind deployment of SMR technologies and associated developments.

“The Fit4Nuclear scheme is working with Welsh businesses to help them prepare for the potential opportunities, and our skills programmes are evaluating how, working with Horizon and the local education authorities, we can make sure local people are in a

position to take up the wide variety of roles that will be available.

“There is a great deal we can achieve to bring lasting benefit to our combined communities.”

Welsh Government approves £25million for Glangwili obstetric and neonatal facilities

The second phase of developments will increase the capacity of the facilities at Glangwili. This will include more high dependency cots, special care cots and parent overnight stay rooms, as well as increase the number of birthing rooms, operating theatres and resuscitation bays. Plans are also in place for an additional 59 car parking spaces.

The plans will provide a safe environment for the delivery of obstetric and neonatal services at Glangwili, and address the urgent areas of concern highlighted in the Royal Colleges’ report into the maternity, neonatal and paediatric services provided by Hywel Dda Health Board.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething, announced the funding during a visit to Glangwili’s obstetric and neonatal facilities.

Speaking during the visit, the Cabinet Secretary said:

“I’m delighted to approve £25million Welsh Government funding for the further redevelopment of Glangwili Hospital’s obstetric and neonatal facilities.

“This funding will improve the clinical quality, safety and innovation at the site. It will mean better access to services for patients and their parents, as well as improving the well-being of staff. This investment will address the urgent areas of concern highlighted in the Royal Colleges’ report on maternity services in Hywel Dda Health Board.

This should significantly improve the patient experience and accommodation for families and, as it is a larger unit, may also reduce the risk of families having to travel out of our area for care due to capacity reasons.”

Hywel Dda University Health Board Chief Executive Steve Moore said:

“We welcome this news as women, children and their families deserve to have better accommodation than we are currently able to offer at Glangwili Hospital. We hope this provides our population with confidence that we will now proceed with pace to make these improvements.”

The second phase redevelopments will include:

- Neonatal Unit – 4 high dependency cots plus 1 stabilisation cot, 2 single cot nursery spaces plus 1 isolation lobby, 8 special care cots and 2 double parent overnight stay rooms
- Labour Ward – 5 standard birthing rooms, 1 birthing room with pool, and 6 bedded higher dependency area
- Obstetric Theatres – 2 operating theatres, 2*2 cot resuscitation bays; and
- Car Parking – additional 59 car parking spaces.

Work is expected to start before the Autumn and the aim is for the scheme to be complete by 2020.

[New areas to pilot Welsh Government's free childcare offer](#)

When rolled out across Wales, the offer will provide 30 hours of early education and childcare to working parents of 3 and 4 year olds for 48 weeks of the year.

In September 2017, the Welsh Government began piloting the offer in a number of areas in Anglesey, Gwynedd, Caerphilly, Flintshire, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Swansea, and across the whole of Blaenau Gwent. This approach has enabled the Welsh Government to test a range of aspects and issues impacting delivery and take-up.

The Minister is today announcing the offer is being extended to cover the whole counties of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Caerphilly from this month, and the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taff from at the start of September 2018. Discussions are also on-going with Flintshire and Swansea with a view to rolling out the offer to all remaining areas within those authorities as soon as possible.

In addition, the offer is also being expanded immediately into the following areas of Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC: The wards of Brynna, Llanharan, Llanharry, Talbot Green, Hawthorn, Graig, Rhydyfelin Central, Taff's Well and Treforest.

Huw Irranca-Davies said:

“Our ground-breaking childcare offer is already making a real difference to parents right across Wales, reducing the strain on family income and helping ensure childcare is not a barrier to them taking up employment or increasing their hours.

“I’m delighted to confirm the offer is being rolled out to new areas across Wales, as we continue the work to roll out the offer across the entire country by 2020.”

As part of the Welsh Government’s Draft Budget 2018/19, the funding to support the childcare offer increases to £25m in 2018-19, and to £45m in 2019-20.

This increase in funding will allow the Welsh Government to expand and test aspects of the delivery of the offer in some additional local authorities from September 2018 onwards.