

OPEN LETTER TO PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS OF



Dear All

As Chairman of TREAT Wales, I felt it is now an appropriate time to make contact with you and update you on the various discussions and developments with TREAT over the last few years and of our aspirations to develop a dedicated rehabilitation facility in Wales.

As you know, Mel and Mike have been tireless in their activities over the course of the last 17 years, helping to raise awareness, gather high profile personality and public-sector support, as well as embarking on various fundraising activities, much of this done whilst they have both often been facing and coping with some of their own medical challenges.

A couple of years ago we were encouraged when the ARCH project was announced, a programme which is intended to deliver a cross partner collaborative approach to delivery of healthcare across South West Wales.

What was even more encouraging was that ARCH management bought into the TREAT Wales project, to the extent that they have and will continue to build the project into their Masterplan for the Morriston Hospital site.

Despite this, the last twelve months has been a period of relative frustration, as there have been a number of meetings with various representatives across ABMU, Hywel Dda, Carmarthen Council and Swansea University, partners within the ARCH project, much of which appeared to be conflicting, in terms of their perception of the project how and where they see TREAT fitting in.

In order to get some clarity on the situation, a meeting was held on 14th April with representatives from ARCH, Welsh Government and ABMU and the following points summarise how the meeting was left and what this would mean for TREAT in the short to medium term.

The main points raised were:

- The Murrison Hospital site remains the key location for ABMU Health Board's plans for service delivery, but there is a lot of work to do to develop the business case for the Masterplan and the anticipated realistic timescales for anything relating to TREAT's rehabilitation facility are 10 years, much of the work in the period before then linked to establishing the road infrastructure for the expanding site
- The alternative consideration for TREAT, as presented by ARCH, was for us to consider a location on the Llanelli Health and Wellness Village, as this programme is much more advanced than Murrison, but we decided as Trustees that this was not an option that we were keen to explore, as our vision, and a proven project (Aspire) is based on a location adjacent to a major hospital.
- The main, and possibly the only attraction for TREAT to establish a facility at the Delta Lakes Village is that as a project it is far more advanced than Murrison, with funding of £40m from the Swansea Bay City Deal committed.

In light of the above, in particular the timeframe for Murrison becoming a realistic option on which we can develop our Centre, we considered the option of embarking on a more community based approach, something which would at least enable us to reinforce the message to the key personnel within Welsh Government and the local Health Boards of the need for a focused rehabilitation programme, so the next course of action for us is to explore how TREAT could provide rehabilitation and therapy support services through the Community Services teams from ABMU/Hywel Dda.

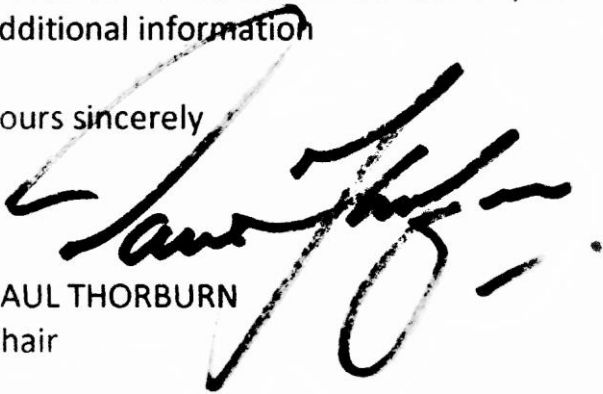
Whilst I am not able at this stage to outline any details of this, as we have yet to have any meaningful discussions with the Community Services Teams, but it may well be that as an initial phase, we utilize some of the funds generated over the last 10-15 years to appoint Community based personnel to deliver services in line with TREAT's vision.

I will provide further updates, when indeed further meetings have taken place, in the meantime, rest assured that the Trustees are committed and passionate about the TREAT Wales project and will continue to drive things forward, sadly our aspirations are somewhat dictated to by the financial limitations across the Welsh Health sector.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the Trustees should you require additional information

Yours sincerely

PAUL THORBURN
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Thorburn', written over the printed name and title.