



Llandrindod Wells Town Council
Old Town Hall, Temple Street,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys
LD1 5DL

Telephone - 01597 823116

Email - llandrindodcouncil@btconnect.com

Website - www.llandrindod.co.uk

25th November 2020

Adrian Osborne
Assistant Director (Engagement and Communication)
Powys Teaching Health Board
Bronllys Hospital
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LU

Dear Mr Osborne

Re: NHS Dental Provision Crisis in Powys

At the last meeting of the Town Council held on 17th November, 2020 concern was expressed about the lack of dental provision in Llandrindod Wells and the whole of Powys. This has resulted in many people locally being unable to get access to a dentist.

A recent report was released referring to the impact of Covid 19 on dentistry provision and the difficulties being experienced by dentistry businesses all over the country. The report indicated the possible calamitous effects this could have on dentistry nationwide.

The local provision has fallen short over the last decade, and despite promises to address the issue nothing tangible seems to have been done.

The local NHS Dentistry provision has been failing for a long time prior to Covid 19 and was probably already in crisis. However, since the Covid 19 pandemic, local dentistry provision has as good as collapsed. This failure to supply adequate service provision is having a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of the local residents.

It has been noted that contracting out to My Dentist Group for all or the majority of the provision is failing the local population and probably preventing other independent providers from filling the shortfall which needs to be addressed.

The My Dentist Group mainly seems to be staffed by newly qualified dentists who do not remain in post for very long. This causes a knock on staffing problem and perpetuates the lack of cover.

Llandrindod Wells Town Council feels there are solutions available which should be explored by the Powys Teaching Health Board to ensure that adequate provision is in place for all residents of Llandrindod Wells and Powys as a whole.

This could involve opening up the supply of provisions to other providers, large and small. Encouragement could be given to smaller service providers who will stay and remain long term in the area to prevent valuable workers from leaving. Incentives for small operators to locate and set up in Powys could be offered.

An increase could be introduced in the capacity of the Cardiff School of Dentistry with places offered subject to working in the NHS dentistry field. We feel consideration should also be given to setting up a second school of Dentistry in Mid or North Wales; the former Coleg Powys building in Llandrindod Wells remains empty and would make an ideal training facility.

We would like to see Welsh Government promoting through education, the opportunities for school leavers to consider dentistry as a profession, and would encourage Government funding to support training, and better access to dental colleges/ training providers. Bursaries to local school leavers could be introduced to facilitate their training, on the condition they return and practice within Powys.

The Town Council would urge Powys Teaching Health Board to take urgent action on the issues addressed above and would be interested to have your response on this as this is a matter of great concern to our members and residents.

Yours sincerely

J Johnston

Jane Johnston PSLCC, CiLCA (Wales)
Town Clerk
Llandrindod Wells Town Council

Copies to: Vaughan Gething AM
Matt Hancock MP
Kirsty Williams AM
Fay Jones MP
Powys Town & Community Councils
Powys County Councillors