



Dear patients,

PEG Article [03] – November 2022

This is our first information article to the patient community of Llys Meddyg and Gyffin Surgeries.

In this article we introduce our thoughts on the move from a health board managed practice to one ran by a GP partnership.

If you wish to leave us with feedback regarding this article, then do please do so through the link found on the PEG website page. We welcome your thoughts..!

Moving from Health Board to GP partnership?

Within the NHS, primary care is delivered by GPs. GPs run practices either single handed or more commonly as a group partnership. However, in recent years GPs have found it increasingly difficult to effectively run some practices. One of the principle reasons for this is an inability to recruit GPs willing to undertake the non-clinical aspects of running a practice. Running a GP practice is like running a small business.

All the stresses and strains of business life are added to those of being a doctor. Unfortunately, the Conwy and Gyffin surgeries could not replace retiring GPs or those who moved on to new appointments. Thus the running of the surgeries had to revert to the local Health Board which has over-arching responsibility for providing primary care. Consequently for the last few years the Conwy and Gyffin surgeries have been 'directly managed' by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board is the largest health organisation in Wales, with a budget of £1.3 billion and a workforce of over 17,000 staff. It provides primary, community, mental health and acute hospital services for the 700,000 people of North Wales. As well as its three main hospitals (**Ysbyty Gwynedd** in Bangor, **Glan Clwyd Hospital** in Bodelwyddan and **Wrexham Maelor Hospital**), the Health Board is also responsible for community hospitals, health centres, clinics, mental health units, community teams, GP practices and other NHS services provided by dentists, opticians and pharmacists. With such a wide range of responsibilities over North Wales, it is easy to understand how the 7,000 patients registered with the Conwy and Gyffin surgeries could have been overlooked. We are just too small for the Health Board to effectively manage and we became 'the overlooked surgeries of Conwy'.

Fortunately the Health Board recognised the difficulties of directly running the practices and put the surgeries up for tender. We are extremely lucky that they were incorporated on February 1st 2022 into an adjacent GP partnership rather than being contracted out to a wholly commercial operation. Plas Menai already provides high quality primary care in Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr.

The systems developed by Plas Menai can be applied here in Conwy so sparing us the teething problems inevitably associated with clinical pathway development. There will also be economies of scale. Health care posts that are expensive to run can be afforded when spread over larger combined partnerships. Duplication of posts in separate surgeries is minimised allowing savings to be retained for service development. If Plas Menai had not taken over the practices, we could have remained 'directly managed' with little prospect of improvement or been served by a commercial health care provider concentrating on profitability.



Llys Meddyg and Gyffin Surgeries – Patient Engagement Group

Collaboratively supporting our patient community!!

Now we have a group of dedicated health care professionals who are exclusively interested in our care. The new partnership's main concern is our health and not profit generation. We have reverted to the tried and trusted system of GP partnerships that has been in use since 1948. This must be a best position for our surgeries.

Improvements in service provision will take time but will occur. We are lucky; as of 1st Feb 2022 we were no longer the overlooked surgeries of Conwy.

Saxon

Saxon Ridley – Chair

On behalf of the 'Llys Meddyg and Gyffin Surgeries Patient Engagement Group'