

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_251_19

You asked:

I understand that changes are being made to GP services for residents of Llanharan.

Can you please give me an update on how the village will be served in future by the GP practice at Pencoed.

Is the satellite surgery in Llanharan being retained and if so, how many GP sessions are there at the moment and how many will there be in future.

Are any other services being located within the Llanharan surgery – ie practice nurse or other health professionals. If so, can I please have details.

Also, what is the name of the Pencoed practice which provides these services as I gather there are two practices within Pencoed.

In addition, where is the surgery located in Llanharan and is the building capable of providing the facilities required by a 21st century medical practice. If not, are there are plans to either replace it with a new build structure – possibly on the site of the Llanilid opencast housing development – or to upgrade and extend the existing building.

Our response:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is aware that there has been significant housing grown in the area or Llanharan and further housing developments are planned over the forthcoming decade, details of this can be found within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Local Area Development Plans available on the Council's website. We have had regular meetings with RCT County Borough Council and with Bridgend County Borough Council Planners to examine the impact of the housing pressures across our Localities. This information is being used to inform our Primary and Community Estates plans.

In tandem with this, meetings have also taken place with the GP Practices within the Pencoed area. It is clear that the current provision of General Medical Services will not be sufficient to meet the growing demand for services within the area.

Llanharan is served by two GP Practices; New Surgery Pencoed which has a single site surgery premises within Pencoed Village and Pencoed Medical Centre which has a main surgery premises within Pencoed Village and a branch surgery located on Tredegar Avenue, in Llanharan.

In respect of Pencoed Medical Centre, the branch surgery at Llanharan is currently only open 20 hours a week, the minimum opening hours for a branch surgery allowable under the NHS (General Medical Services Contracts) (Wales) Regulations 2004. At present, GP consultations are provided on just two mornings a week, Monday and Tuesdays and the rest of the time is covered by nurse clinics and administration.

However, Pencoed Medical Centre are responding to the increased demand for services and they have just announced, that with effect from 1 September 2019, the services at the Llanharan Surgery will be increased to the following:

- The Surgery will be open from 8.15am until 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and from 8.15am to 1pm on Friday.
- GP appointments will be every morning Monday to Friday but the afternoon (pre-booked) will still be centralised from Pencoed. The details still need to be finalised but they are aiming for two GPs every day.
- Nurse Practitioner every morning Monday to Friday undertaking minor illness clinic.
- Health care support worker supporting every day.
- Nurse led clinics will be held every week and will include: Diabetic Clinic; Asthma Clinic; Cytology Clinic; INR (anticoagulation) Clinic.
- Nurse treatment room clinics will be on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Based on the planned development in the area it is clear that Pencoed Medical Centre's surgery sites at both Pencoed and Llanharan will not be able to accommodate the increasing demands from the growing population in the medium to long term and alternatives premises solution will need to be found. The Pencoed Medical Centre have given a commitment to continue to work with the Health Board to find this long term solution.

We are exploring with the practice and RCT County Borough Council the option of a single site new development which will be located within Llanharan area to replace both the existing Pencoed Medical Centre premises and also the Llanharan surgery premises. Llanilid open cast housing development site maybe an option but the plans are at the early stages and all options will be explored. It is also too early to say as to the range of services which will be provided from such a site. In addition to this, Llanharan will also continue to be served by the New Surgery Pencoed.