



UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE NORTH POWYS WELLBEING PROGRAMME

APPROVAL FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING CAMPUS BUSINESS CASE WELCOMED

A new state of the art health and wellbeing campus in Newtown has taken a significant step forward following endorsement from Welsh Government.

A Programme Business Case (PBC) had earlier been submitted to Welsh Government by the North Powys Wellbeing (NPWB) Programme highlighting the benefits of bringing together health and wellbeing services onto a single site adjacent to Park Street in Newtown. Endorsement for this business case was announced by First Minister Mark Drakeford MS in the Senedd on March 15th, who noted the important milestone in the project.

The North Powys Wellbeing (NPWB) Programme is a flagship programme of the Powys Regional Partnership Board, comprising Powys County Council, Powys Teaching Health Board, PAVO and other key partners.

Hayley Thomas, Powys Teaching Health Board's Deputy Chief Executive is a joint Senior Responsible Officer for the NPWB Programme: "We're delighted that the Welsh Government has considered our early ideas for this exciting and innovative new development. Whilst we have been waiting for a decision, we have also made progress in developing the second stage business case – the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) – and these plans are to be considered by the health board later this month (March 2022). If this is signed off, then this will be submitted to Welsh Government."

Early plans for the Newtown campus include looking at relocating Newtown's health provision into a Rural Regional Diagnostics and Treatment Centre, along with a Integrated Health and Care Centre (including social care and third sector provision), a Health and Care Academy, short term supported housing, library and information services as well as shared community space.

The provision of a small amount of accommodation for students attending the academy, new recruits to
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health and care jobs as well as locum health specialists is also being considered. A replacement school for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is also being developed under Powys County Council's Transforming Education programme with both programme teams working closely together.

Ali Bulman is Powys County Council's Executive Director for People and Organisation Development, the Director of Social Services and is also a Senior Responsible Officer for the programme. "This is tremendous news and we're delighted that we've had this support from Welsh Government.

"However, we are still at an early stage and, subject to our SOC also gaining support, there are still two further business case stages we need to go through. However, if all of the business cases are supported by Welsh Government, we will be aiming to open in late 2026 although the school redevelopment is expected to be ready in the previous autumn."

The campus plan is part of a wider vision to improve access to health and wellbeing services through a new and innovative 'Integrated Model of Care and Wellbeing in Powys'. The aims of the vision are to ensure people in Powys receive joined up seamless care and support at the right time, in the right place that meets their needs in the home, community, or across Powys.

To find out more about the Integrated Model of Care and Wellbeing in Powys and proposals for the Newtown campus visit www.powyswellbeing.wales

NORTH POWYS WELLBEING PROGRAMME FUNDS NEW EYE CARE CLINICS

Eye care patients who need Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) scans in North Powys are now able to have them in-county thanks to funding from the North Powys Wellbeing Programme. Previously, patients in the north of the county had to travel to district general hospitals outside the county for access to digital ophthalmic scanning. Now there are regular clinics taking place in Llanidloes and Welshpool hospitals which offer this facility.

Judith Jamieson is Senior Nurse Manager for Outpatients Development with Powys Teaching Health Board: "Traditionally in this part of the county our patients would require onward referral to Shrewsbury or Aberystwyth for this diagnostic scan by the Consultant in Ophthalmology. This results in several visits to different hospital sites, possible delay in diagnosis and commencement of treatment regimes.

The North Powys Wellbeing Programme's ambition is to transform health and wellbeing services in this part of the county. While it is developing plans for a multi-agency health and wellbeing campus in Newtown, it is also financially supporting a range of initiatives across North Powys which can make real improvements quickly.

Carys Williams is Clinical Change Manager with the programme team. She added: "We are also looking to introduce similar scanning facilities at the campus in Newtown which, subject to funding being available, should be open in late 2026. We are already seeing the fruits of this current investment, though. Already dozens of patients have had their OCT scans in Llanidloes and Welshpool. This is a major part of our vision - to deliver as many services as possible in our hospitals here in north Powys."



If you'd like to get in touch with the team, please contact them at powyswellbeing.north@wales.nhs.uk or via social media at (Facebook) @powyswellbeing and (Twitter) at @powyswellbeing. Alternatively, you can write to us at the North Powys Wellbeing Programme, Rm 1.7 Ladywell House, Park Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1BJ