

NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Services Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF MEETING	10 January, 2013
TITLE OF ITEM	Flexible Working
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor R H Wyn Williams

Request for progress report on the next steps to be taken following the completion of the pilot project in Meirionnydd in October,2011.



The aims of the flexible working pilot in Meirionnydd were:

1. To ensure better joint working between health staff- BCUHB and Gwynedd social workers by working in joint locations.
2. Identify savings by reducing travel costs.

5 centers were established for social workers within health buildings in Meirionnydd. IT connections allowed the social workers to access the Departmental RAISE system. The centres were located at :- Alltwen Hospital, Blaenau Hospital, Tywyn Hospital, Barmouth Surgery and Bala Surgery. Social workers were also able to work from home via RAISE.

After consultation with staff including health staff the Department received confirmation that the pilot had been successful in promoting a better understanding of the role of professional staff and that closer collaboration benefited users and their carers.

In terms of financial savings, none were identified although detailed monitoring had taken place.

The pilot phase in Meirionnydd has now expired and the practice has been accepted as a permanent arrangement. The response of the staff was positive and supportive.

It is the intention of the service to extend the model across Adult services. The challenge now will be to identify funding for the initial costs. The initial costs of the pilot was funded corporately because of our agreement to pilot the Flexible Working Scheme in the area

Although programmes have been identified to extend the scheme to Arfon a Dwyfor they have not been implemented due to :-

- The need for the service to prioritise other work programmes
- The cost involved in extending the scheme to the other two areas. The costs of establishing the scheme in Meirionnydd was around £24,000.

In October 2012 a bid was submitted for financial assistance towards the cost of establishing the scheme through corporate arrangements.