

Mark Drakeford MS First Minister Welsh Government 5th Floor Tŷ Hywel Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Mark,

## North Denbighshire Community Hospital in Rhyl

Earlier this year I wrote to Baroness Eluned Morgan to reiterate the importance of progressing the proposed redevelopment of The Royal Alexandra Hospital in Rhyl.

As you will be aware, discussions relating to the transformation of this site have been ongoing since 2014. Whilst I acknowledge that the scope of the project was perhaps greater than initially thought, I feel that eight years without any significant progress is totally unacceptable.

The publication of the recent Healthcare Inspectorate Wales report into the Emergency Department at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd provides the latest in a long run of evidence of the dire situation my constituents are often faced with when attempting to access health care.

The reality in North Wales is that we are seeing services unable to cope, with friends and family waiting inordinate times to receive diagnosis and treatment; accounts of poor-quality care; patients being discharged too soon; and demoralised and exhausted staff. The local situation is grave and is resulting in unnecessary harm and loss of life. It is clear that until infrastructure, both physical and digital, is improved, it is unlikely to recover.

The development of the Royal Alexandra site would provide a much-needed minor injuries unit, alleviating some of the pressure on the Emergency Department at the district general hospital, as well as on other departments. Furthermore, it would provide community beds which would help facilitate more timely discharges from Glan Clwyd. I recall ten years ago as a then county councillor, calling for Chatsworth House Community Hospital in Prestatyn not to close until a replacement such as this were up and running. Fundamentally, it is vital to assist the improvement of the quality and safety of local healthcare services.

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Despite the fact that health has been devolved to Cardiff Bay for nearly a quarter of a century, it is the most dominant issue in my inbox as a Member of Parliament. I hear harrowing stories from constituents and staff on an almost daily basis. The residents of North Wales deserve better and I urge Welsh Government to prioritise this development and reach a positive decision on the Full Business Case as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr James Davies MP** 

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