

Dear Dr. Cox

Following our last Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting I have been instructed to write to you expressing our concerns relating to the Practice applying to the Health Board for the closure of the Neyland surgery.

A fundamental requirement of the PPG is to look after the interests of all the patients registered with the Practice and the closure of the surgery could well have serious implications to the patients living in the Neyland area, especially those without any means of transport.

As a Group, we are fully aware of the time and effort that the Practice has taken in trying to recruit GPs to the Practice and understand that the decision to apply for the closure has not been taken lightly.

However if the surgery is closed patients without means of transportation would be at a distinct disadvantage. It could be that the practice in Neyland has or is in the process of closing its books and therefore patients will be unable to re-register elsewhere.

Public transport between Neyland and Pembroke Dock is limited and therefore the burden of transporting patients to and from the surgery will rest firmly on friends and family members. We believe that the Practice and the Health Board need to discuss transportation issues and in particular the possible use of Country Cars, the Red Cross and any other suitable agency that could be utilised for patients.

The health of elderly patients in particular could very well deteriorate if they are unable to access a GP surgery close to their home and this could result in an increase in patients using the Welsh Ambulance Service and the Accident & Emergency facility in Withybush.

We therefore request that you continually work with the Hywel Dda Health Board, the CHC and other interested parties in order to identify a range of options for possible implementation, in order that a satisfactory outcome for the patients in Neyland can be reached.

Dennis Evans (Chair Patient Participation Group)