

Media release

September 2019

Celebrating successful partnership working to improve services for our patients in North Wales -

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Neurosciences is awarded a Certificate of Partnership by the Motor Neurone Disease Association

People living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in North Wales can continue to be assured of a high standard of service development following the award of a Certificate of Partnership to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) by the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

It has been awarded to formally recognise the constructive and highly successful partnership relationship over several years between BCUHB Neurosciences and the MND Association to improve the standards of service for people affected by MND, and the commitment to working together in the future to build on this work through the BCUHB Neurosciences Motor Neurone Disease Specific Advisory Group (DSAG). This is a significant achievement for BCUHB as usually a Certificate of Partnership is only awarded to MND Care Centres part-funded by the MND Association. BCUHB works in partnership with the Liverpool MND Care Centre.

This week, at the BCUHB Neurosciences Motor Neurone Disease Specific Advisory Group Study Day, Annette Morris, Director of Neurosciences in BCUHB and Dr Liz Williams, Chair of the Neurosciences Motor Neurone Disease Specific Advisory Group (DSAG), were presented with the Certificate of Partnership by Dr Nicholas Cole, Head of Research for the MND Association.

Annette Morris, Director of Neurosciences in BCUHB, said that she 'gratefully received the Certificate on behalf of BCUHB and looked forward to continuing to work closely with the MND Association to improve the standards of care for people affected by MND'.

Kevin Thomas, Regional Care Development Adviser for the MND Association said: "The Certificate of Partnership formalises an already close working relationship in North Wales between BCUHB Neurosciences and the MND Association which has achieved so much. Formalising the partnership takes the relationship a step further ensuring that the MND Care Coordination service has access to the national expertise and training opportunities of the MND Association and its Care Centres and Networks".

MND is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease which affects the brain and spinal cord. It attacks the nerves that control movement and eventually leaves people unable to move, communicate or breathe. It kills a third of people within a year of diagnosis and half within two years. There is no cure.

The BCUHB Neurosciences MND DSAG is a clinically led strategic forum that includes stakeholders from a wide range of clinical and non-clinical groups and professions, including patients and the MND Association staff and volunteers. It supports the operation of three MND Multidisciplinary Teams across North Wales, and was the first neurological conditions Disease Specific Advisory Group to be established by BCUHB Neurosciences in 2012. A major success of the DSAG has been evidencing the need for an MND Care Coordination service for North Wales. BCUHB now employ two part-time MND Care Coordinators following initial funding from the MND Association through an *Ice Bucket Challenge Innovation Grant* of £120,000. This service ensures that everyone living with MND has a single point of contact in Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board for coordinating their care needs.

More recently, the MND Association endorsed the Advance Care Planning Document (ACP) produced and promoted by BCUHB. The MND Association Logo has been added to the ACP front cover to demonstrate this support and the document is sensitively promoted to people living with MND by the MND Care Coordination service.

For more information about MND and the MND Association please visit www.mndassociation.org

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Picture caption: Annette Morris, Director of Neurosciences, and Dr Liz Williams, Chair of Neurosciences MND DSAG being presented with the Certificate of Partnership by Dr Nick Cole, Head of Research, MND Association

From BCUHB and MND Association:

Annette Morris, Director of Neurosciences, BCUHB

Dr Liz Williams, Chair of the BCUHB Neurosciences Motor Neurone Disease Specific Advisory Group

Kevin Thomas, Regional Care Development Adviser, MND Association

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