

# Musculoskeletal services in Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board

*“There are over 200 different types of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions”<sup>1</sup>*

Musculoskeletal conditions are the most common type of self-reported illness, and account for almost 20% of all GP consultations in the UK<sup>1,2</sup>

*“In Wales £90 million is spent each year on incapacity benefits to individuals suffering with back pain”<sup>1</sup>*

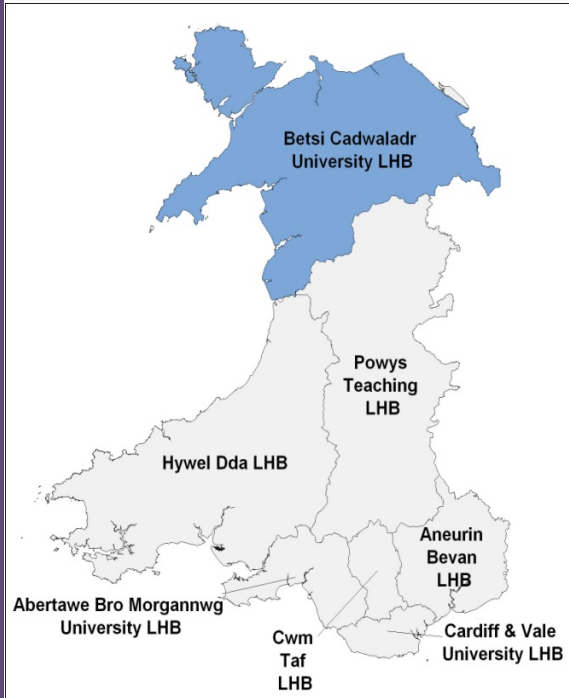
Approximately 27,000 people living with arthritis in the UK are under the age of 25<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Welsh Assembly Government, *Service Development and Commissioning Directives: Arthritis and Chronic Musculoskeletal Conditions*, 2007

<sup>2</sup>Arthritis Care, *FAQs*, 2011, accessed via:

<http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk/AboutArthritis/FAQs>

<sup>3</sup> Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board, *FOI response*, 2012



Expenditure on musculoskeletal conditions at Betsi Cadwaladr<sup>3</sup>:

2009/10	£71,581,000
2010/11	£77,781,000

## SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH MUSCULOSKELETAL CONDITIONS:

- Pain management service
- Physiotherapy service
- Inflammatory arthritis service
- Integrated falls service
- Course for patients on self care known as The Expert Patient Programme (EPP)

Includes musculoskeletal conditions within definition of long-term conditions



Identified all long-term conditions patients



Audit of outcomes for patients with musculoskeletal conditions



A list of all clinical guidelines and protocols for musculoskeletal conditions



Received information about the Service Development and Commissioning Directives for arthritis and chronic musculoskeletal conditions



Works with voluntary and community organisations to support patients with musculoskeletal problems



As of 2012, Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board has seven rheumatologists.

Betsi Cadwaladr is committed to preventing falls and through working with partners have in place a range of pathways and programmes. Currently the Board is working with partners to review population need and service provision across North Wales. In addition the Board has held two stakeholder days, the outcome of which was an agreement from all Partners (including all agencies, local authorities, Third Sector, Ambulance, Community, Primary and Secondary Care) to develop an Integrated Strategy for Falls, with Betsi Cadwaladr leading on developing an initial draft.