

The South Wales Programme

Securing the future of hospital services in South Wales
and South Powys

Update 33

March 19, 2014

South Wales Programme Board agrees next steps

Further to the special public board meetings held on 13th February 2014, constructive discussions have been ongoing to agree the positions of all partner organisations. Following a meeting of the Programme Board yesterday (18th March) there is now agreement to move to the next phase of our work together. It is recognised that there are matters of detail to be worked through that can only be addressed as part of the transition and implementation arrangements that are being established.

All health boards have supported the creation of three acute care alliances across South Wales and South Powys. These alliances will ensure that hospitals no longer work in isolation but instead work more closely together across health board boundaries as part of a network providing care to patients. Similarly, all health boards have agreed to provide consultant led emergency medicine (A&E), maternity and neonatal care and inpatient children's services at five centres. This is consistent with the majority of responses to the public consultation.

In relation to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital (RGH), it has been agreed that:

- Local service models in emergency medicine, paediatric assessment and maternity services will be developed at RGH to replace the traditional services.
- Inpatient children's services will not be delivered from the RGH site in the future but implementation will require a new local assessment service being in

place as the changes occur, to ensure that children continue to have their care delivered safely, as locally as possible.

- Consultant-led A&E services will not be delivered from the RGH site in the future but implementation will require the proposed new model for a local A&E service (non-consultant led) to be in place as the changes occur.
- Maternity and neonatal services at RGH will work closely with other units within the alliances to deliver as much safe care as locally as possible. The final model of service at RGH will be determined through the transition and implementation planning process.

There has also been full agreement that RGH will become a beacon site for developing innovative models of care in acute medicine and diagnostic services.

Mr Paul Hollard, Programme Director, said:

“These agreements are a major step forward in the programme after a long and complicated journey. There is still much to be done to develop the detailed implementation of the future models of care. Our priority continues to be ensuring that the people of South Wales and South Powys have access to high quality, sustainable services in the future.”

Other news

Major Trauma

South Wales does not currently have a dedicated trauma centre, although aspects of this highly-specialist service are provided at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, and Morriston, Hospital, Swansea. Last year, health boards agreed to set up a trauma network for South Wales and South Powys and we promised to share further details as they became available.

A Major Trauma Network Development Forum will take place on Monday, 7th April. This event will provide an opportunity to hear from clinicians about their experiences of delivering major trauma services within the UK and to consider how this experience will guide the development of a service model for South Wales and South Powys.

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