

The South Wales Programme

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

Update 26

November 8, 2013

South Wales Programme consultation responses published today

THE analysis of the 61,000-plus responses to the South Wales Programme consultation is today being published, together with the written submissions received.

The executive summary and full analysis of the consultation responses, which was carried out by independent company Opinion Research Services (ORS), will be available together with the individual written submissions on the South Wales Programme website.

The responses on their own will not determine the outcome of the South Wales Programme consultation about the future of consultant-led maternity and neonatal care, inpatient children's services and emergency medicine (A&E) but will provide health boards and community health councils with further valuable information to support them in their decision making.

Of the **61,422** responses received during the eight-week South Wales Programme consultation, which ran from May 23 to July 19, 2013, there were:

27,625 questionnaire responses

26,089 copies of standardised submissions (letters and emails) in support of particular options

6,367 signatories to seven petitions in support of various options

820 responses to the household survey

521 written submissions.

More than **2,300** people also attended the **50** public meetings held by the five health boards – Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, Aneurin Bevan, Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf and Powys – during the consultation period.

Dr Andrew Goodall, chief executive of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and lead chief executive for the South Wales Programme, said: "We would once again

like to thank the public for their involvement in the consultation; for taking the time to attend public meetings and for submitting such detailed responses. This has provided us with a wealth of information.”

The responses show widespread understanding and support for the need for change and the majority of the public have expressed a preference for a five-hospital model, although there were differences in opinion about which five hospitals.

The majority of questionnaires returned supported option three – the best-fit option – services to be based at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff; Morriston Hospital, in Swansea; the Specialist and Critical Care Centre (SCCC), a new hospital to be built near Cwmbran; Prince Charles Hospital, in Merthyr Tydfil and Princess of Wales Hospital, in Bridgend.

But the majority of the standardised submissions received were in support of option four, which proposes retaining services at UHW; Morriston Hospital; SCCC; Prince Charles Hospital and Royal Glamorgan Hospital, in Llantrisant.

However, some of the written submissions, particularly a number from professional organisations, questioned the medium-term sustainability of a five-centre model. The majority preferred a four-hospital model for consultant-led maternity and neonatal care, inpatient children’s services and emergency medicine (A&E), while some considered a three-site model as the most sustainable in the long term.

Paul Hollard, programme director for the South Wales Programme, said: “It is important the public understands the consultation responses on their own will not determine the outcome of the South Wales Programme.

“The responses, together with the evidence gathered to support the consultation, the equality impact assessment and further work carried out in response to issues raised during the consultation, will be used by the health boards and the community health councils to reach a decision.

“The analysis of the 61,000-plus responses to the South Wales Programme consultation carried out by ORS has been shared with board members of the five health boards and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and executive members of the five community health councils. We can now share this same information with the public.”

Dale Hall, managing director of ORS, said: “This was a uniquely large and thorough consultation exercise by the South Wales Programme and health boards. Many residents, staff, professional bodies and other stakeholders took part and clearly thought deeply about the issues before giving their insights and wide-ranging opinions on the options before them.”

The five health boards and the five community health councils – Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, Aneurin Bevan, Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf and Brecknock and Radnor – will consider the outcome of the consultation alongside a suite of other information as they make a decision about the future of consultant-led maternity and neonatal care, inpatient children’s services and emergency medicine (A&E).

The consultation responses are available on the South Wales Programme website at www.wales.nhs.uk/swp/post-consultation-documents and are made up of the following documents:

- The ORS executive summary (this is available bilingually)
- The full analysis of the consultation responses by ORS
- The publication of the written submissions—these are available in batches. Please note that some personal information, which could identify individuals, has been redacted where appropriate.

The South Wales Programme websites (English and Welsh) also feature new sections—Making a Decision—which describe the full suite of documents and reports which will be available to the health boards and community health councils to support their decision making processes. Links to these key documents and reports will be posted on this part of the website as and when they become available.

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www.wales.nhs.uk/swp or www.wales.nhs.uk/swp/hafan



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