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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Sexual Health Services Public Engagement

**LET'S
TALK
ABOUT
SEX**

The future of accessing Sexual Health Care in
the Aneurin Bevan Health Board Area

WHAT ARE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES (SRH)?

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services **provide information, advice and support on a range of sexual health issues**, such as Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's), contraception, relationships as well as unplanned pregnancy. In the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire and Torfaen), we currently offer a range of services six days a week.

These services include;

- A range of contraception, pregnancy tests, tests for sexually transmitted diseases, cytology (smears or cervical screening)
- Services to vulnerable groups within the community (Outreach)
- Treatment for complex sexually transmitted diseases and HIV Treatment
- Vaccination for Hepatitis. Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Abortion care, psychosexual counselling and menopause clinics
- Vasectomies

WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES?

Since the introduction of the original 'Family Planning' model back in the 1950s SRH Services have not evolved greatly. Now over 70 years on our communities have grown as have their needs. We want to give a service that reflects those modern needs. There have been several drivers for change including patient experience, service demand as well as staffing and facilities. Over the last three years, the service has been working towards the development of an integrated sexual health model where a patient's holistic sexual health needs are met in one setting. This is in response to the following:

- The changing nature in where patients access sexual health services (GPs, Pharmacies, education and leisure facilities plus the introduction of home testing kits, e- consult – more detail below) and how often they access services (yearly supplies of pills, self-contraception injections)
- Maintaining this level of service provision across these number of sites has been increasingly difficult due to the challenge of recruiting both sexual health nurses and doctors. The pressure is further increased by time spent travelling to so many sites which reduces capacity further. At times, this has resulted in last minute closure of clinics.
- The logistical challenges of servicing so many sites (many of which provide infrequent clinics with few users accessing them). This is in terms of equipment, stock, sample collection and providing the right skill mix of staff to provide a comprehensive service.

The Focus Of This Engagement

The future configuration of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services across Aneurin Bevan University Health Board's localities, specifically:

To start a discussion with local communities across the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area on how the future of accessing sexual health services could look.

The engagement will aim to share information around:

- What Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services are
- Who may need SRH Services
- The challenges faced by SRH Services (Including during COVID-19)
- How SRH Services are provided now
- The new proposal on how SRH Services could be delivered

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE ENGAGEMENT?

This engagement opportunity is being led by:

- Family and Therapies Division – Aneurin Bevan Health Board

The populations involved are:

- Blaenau Gwent
- Torfaen
- Monmouthshire
- Caerphilly
- Newport
- South Powys*

* Residents of South Powys can access a range of services in the ABUHB area including self-referral services for sexually transmitted infection, and specialist services through referral by their GP

What Accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health Services Currently Looks Like

SRH Services are provided in three levels. The tables below show the levels of care provided and where Aneurin Bevan University Health Board currently provides its clinics:

Level 1 (provided from all clinics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pregnancy tests - Condoms - Contraceptive pills - Contraceptive injections - Cytology (smears or cervical screening) - Testing for Chlamydia and gonorrhoea where the patient has no symptoms - Treatment for uncomplicated Chlamydia
Level 2 (only available in community clinics when a specialised staff member is available)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contraceptive Implant insertion and removal - Contraceptive Coils - Diagnosis and treatment for Herpes, some Genital Warts, complex Chlamydia management - Outreach/vulnerable care and management of those at risk of sexual exploitation - Blood testing for Bloodborne sexually transmitted infections
Level 3 (from Cordell Centre only currently)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vaccination – Hepatitis, Human Papilloma Virus - All the complex sexually transmitted infections that require prompt laboratory access for the tests – Syphilis, HIV, Gonorrhoea, Warts requiring cryotherapy, patients with symptoms of lumps, bumps, discharge and high risk sexual behaviour - HIV diagnosis - Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) of HIV - Sexual assault follow up
Other Specialist level 3 services we provide (No current plans to change these)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialist Menopause care - Deep implant removal and implant complications management - Complex Coil management - Psychosexual counselling - Abortion care - HIV management and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PREP) of HIV

Our Proposal In a Nutshell- Changing Sexual and Reproductive Health Services From The Ground Up

In a Nutshell

To improve access to SRH Services we propose:

1. To offer a Telephone Triage system for the majority of patients which will offer responsive appointments closer to home
2. Provide a sexual health hub in each county borough (Blaenau-Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen)
3. Operate some 'Walk-in' clinics at spoke site across each county borough where specific needs have been identified e.g. young people
4. Extended hours including evenings and Saturdays at our hubs and spokes

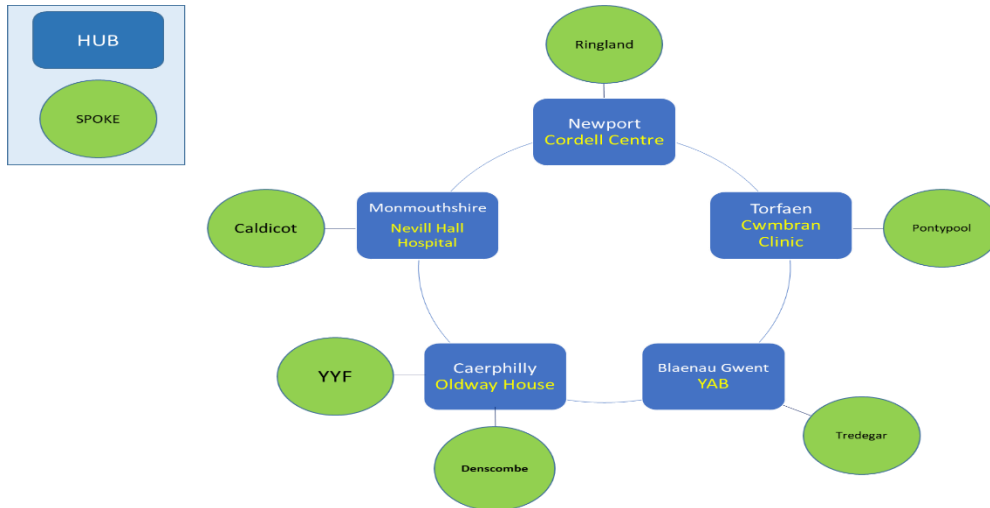
It is important to us that our communities have their say on how their services operate and so we will be carrying out public engagement. This public engagement opportunity runs for 8 weeks from the 15th November 2021 until the 10th January 2022

ADVANTAGES OF PROPOSED MODEL

The new model will improve services for every local authority area. Instead of requiring travel to Newport for SRH requirements each borough will have its own SRH main clinic (also referred to as Hubs). We will still operate a 'walk-in service' primarily aimed at young people across satellite (referred to as Spokes) sites within each borough.

Please see below a list of advantages:

- Increase the number of appointments offered outside of the usual 9-5 hours (in some sites extended to 7:30 pm).
- No need for patients to travel to Newport if they have symptoms. There will be a specialist clinic (hub) in each borough for Sexually Transmitted Infections testing and treatment. Therefore, more specialist care available in the community
- Less staff travel time between sites, which means more time spent with patients

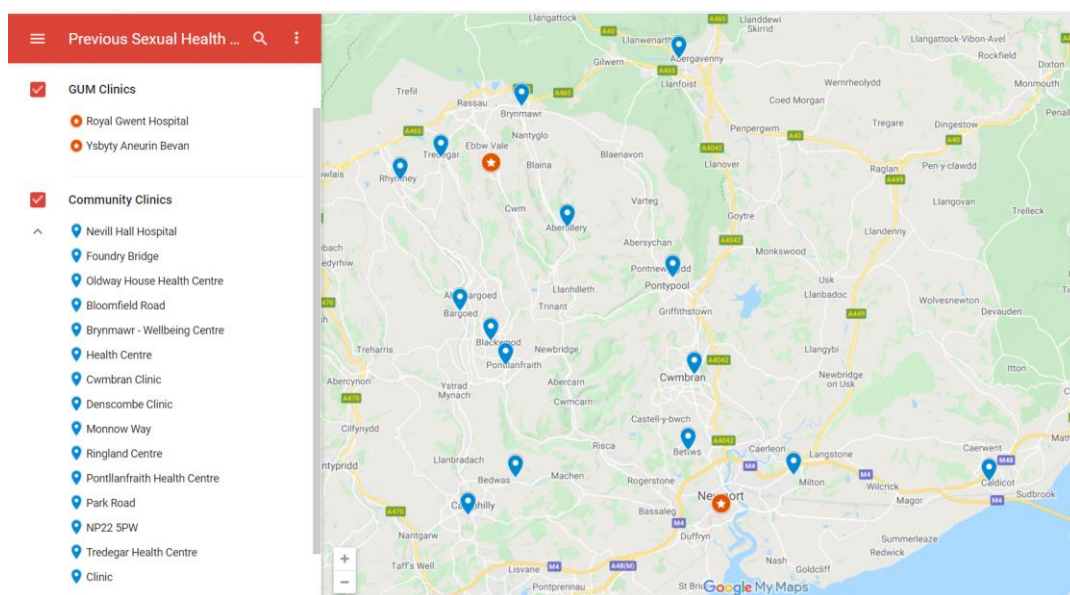


HAVE WE GIVEN THOUGHT TO WHERE THE SITES COULD BE?

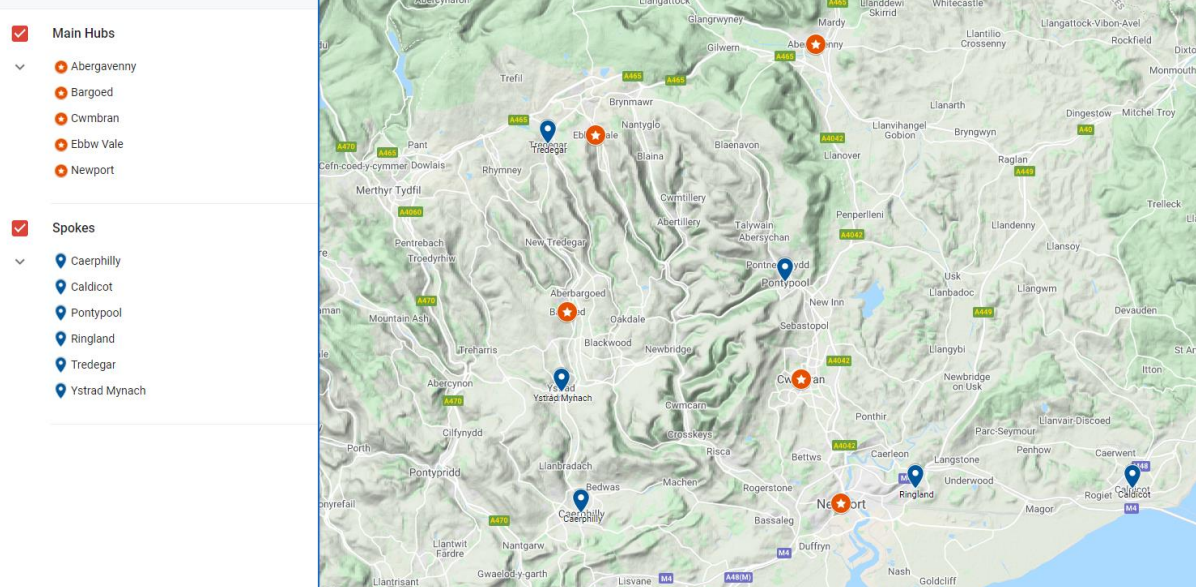
Yes – there are lots of things to consider, including good public transport, busiest clinics, good parking, high usage by young people (for example Caldicot), fit for purpose buildings. In addition, in particular in Monmouthshire, a high number of GPs deliver contraceptive services, including the coil.

Having made considerations and reviewing the locations and current access, the best fit is outlined below. This new model envisages the reduction from 17 sites to 11 sites as illustrated below:

CURRENT MODEL



PROPOSED NEW MODEL



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Check out the [FAQs on the new proposal](#).

Make Your Voice Heard, Have your say.

We really value the input of our local communities to help us improve access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services across the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Area. We are working closely with Community Health Councils (CHC's) and a variety of partner organisations to ensure as many people as possible learn about this proposal and have the opportunity to share their views. There are a variety of ways for you to get involved:

Join Us At An Online Engagement Event

We will also be hosting a variety of online engagement events and welcome anyone to come along, hear more about the proposals and also raise any questions they might have. Please see below the dates and times of our local engagement events which will be hosted via Microsoft teams:

Thursday 25th November 2021, 4-5pm

Monday 29th November 2021, 1130am-1230pm

Tuesday 7th December 2021, 6-7pm

If you would like to attend any of the public events please email ABB.Engagement@wales.nhs.uk to register, you will then be sent the joining details via email.

Submit Your Views Online

To have your say click the below link to complete the survey on the new proposal.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SARHservices2021/>

Complete The Survey In Person

If you would like the opportunity to fill in a printed copy of the survey these will be available at all of our Sexual Health Clinics. Once completed simply hand your survey to the reception team at the clinic.

Find Out More

The document you have just read is a summary of a much larger piece of work. If you are interested in more detail you can access it in our '[Full Document](#)'.