

**CYFARFOD BWRDD IECHYD PRIFYSGOL
ANEURIN BEVAN
ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD
MEETING**

AGENDA

Date and Time	Wednesday 10th April at 2.30pm	
Venue	Conference Centre, Headquarters, St Cadoc's Hospital	
PRESENT	<p>Ann Lloyd Nicola Prygodzicz James Calvert Peter Carr</p> <p>Sarah Simmonds Jennifer Winslade Hannah Evans</p> <p>Robert Holcombe Paul Solloway Leanne Watkins Paul Deneen Dafydd Vaughan Philip Robson Prof Helen Sweetland Penny Jones Louise Wright Richard Clark</p>	<p>Chair Chief Executive Medical Director Director of Therapies and Health Science Director of Workforce and OD Director of Nursing Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships Director of Finance & Procurement Director of Digital Chief Operating Officer Independent Member (Community) Independent Member (Digital) Special Advisor to the Board Independent Member (University)</p> <p>Independent Member (Community) Independent Member (Trade Union) Independent Member (Community)</p>
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE	<p>Rani Dash Michelle Jones Jemma Morgan Fern Cook</p>	<p>Director of Corporate Governance Head of Board Business Llais Governance Support Officer</p>
APOLOGIES	<p>Pippa Britton Martin Blakebrough Iwan Jones Stephen Harry</p>	<p>Independent Member (Third Sector) Independent Member (Community) Independent Member (Finance) Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner</p>

ABUHB 1004/01	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the extraordinary meeting, in particular members of the public who were able to join the meeting to observe in person and online. It was noted that the meeting would be recorded and published on the Health Board’s website following the meeting. The Chair welcomed Ross Whitehead, (RW) Deputy Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner to the meeting.</p>
ABUHB 1004/02	<p>Declarations of Interest for Noting</p> <p>There were no declarations for noting.</p>
ABUHB 1004/03	<p>Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS)</p> <p>The Chair noted that the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) had requested that each Health Board meet to consider the proposals contained within the paper that had been developed and to provide advice and an outcome of the decision, prior to the JCC meeting scheduled for 23rd April 2024 at which the proposal would be determined.</p> <p>Nicola Prygodzicz (NP), Chief Executive, advised that a substantial amount of work had been completed on this matter, with considerable discussion and welcomed the local consideration as to how the proposals would impact upon ABUHB’s population.</p> <p>Ross Whitehead (RW), Deputy Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, provided an overview of the paper and noted that in autumn 2022 following receipt of a proposal from EMRTS, the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) asked the Chief Ambulance Commissioner to undertake a wider review of the EMRTS Service. The Board was advised that EMRTS provides specialised pre-hospital critical care in Wales, in partnership with the Wales Air Ambulance Charity, that provide 2/3^{rds} of funding for the service. RW advised that the purpose of the review was to explore the following four broad areas:</p>

- Unmet need - Across Wales, the Board noted that 2 -3 patients a day across Wales cannot access the service, this was mainly at night and that within the ABUHB boundary this equated to 15%.
- Utilisation of the various bases and assets. - The Board noted a significant variation across bases Wales, with bases in South Wales being utilised far more than those in Mid / North Wales bases.
- Equity of Geographical coverage. The Board noted that there was one asset based in Cardiff that covers the whole of Wales. The Board was advised that the findings identified that by air, there was a significant difference in respect of timely coverage in the north.
- Rapid Response Vehicles: The Board noted significant variation in use. The Board was advised that this was being driven by the closeness of bases to population density.

RW advised that alongside the review a period of engagement took place, utilising a range of approaches and feedback mechanisms, that included engagement with Llais. The Board noted that during Phase 3, the final phase of engagement, 5 online responses from residents of ABUHB were received and this represented circa 1% of the overall feedback received.

The Board noted that the outcome of the review was submitted to EASC in March 2024, that built upon the reports that had been submitted during the period of the review. The final report provided a structured evaluation of the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) within Wales, and outlined the process and methodology used to review the service. In conclusion the report identified four recommendations. RW advised that recommendations 1 to 3 focussed upon the consolidation of the Caernarfon and Welshpool bases into a central location close to the A55, with recommendation 4 focussing upon the development of a bespoke road based enhanced and/or critical care services in rural and remote areas. The Board noted that this was in response to the concerns raised during the engagement around the provision of services. RW noted that, if agreed, a Task and Finish group would be established with a view to report on this recommendation, in September 2024. In conclusion the Board was advised that within the ABUHB geographical area the modelling of the reconfigured service suggested that there would be an improvement in better meeting the level of unmet needs and an improvement in the average response time.

NP reflected that the clarification in respect of the impact upon unmet need and response time was beneficial in terms of ABUHB population and all other Health Board areas in Wales.

Hannah Evans (HE), Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships acknowledged that there hadn't been a significant response from the population, notwithstanding the robust communication that had been shared by the Health Board to engage the population and to provide opportunities for feedback.

NP advised that it was clear that benefits existed for ABUHB's population and that clinicians from within ABUHB that support the EMRTS service had verified this. RW advised of the wider perspective and the impact on other health boards and noted that the timing and alignment of recommendation 4 was key.

Jemma Morgan (JM), Regional Director, advised the Board that service development to meet unmet needs must be the primary goal. In terms of engagement, the feedback from the population was clear. JW advised that whilst ABUHB response rate was low, from a national viewpoint the Welshpool/ North Wales population was not assured that enough detail had been provided as to how the proposal affects those communities. JM confirmed that Llais remained unclear as to the rationale for the need for an urgent decision to be made and suggested that the work of the Task and Finish group be progressed, prior to the decision on the other three recommendations being made. JM advised that this would provide the public and Llais with greater assurance.

The Chair sought clarification of the services that would be provided in the more rural areas that would benefit from an EMRTS service and asked whether any diminishment would occur. RW advised that in respect of the areas of Powys and North Wales there would be an overall reduction in unmet need and a reduction in response times and reassured the Board that those services in place now would continue and concluded that overall, the model suggested an overall improvement in provision across all areas in Wales, but not an eradication of unmet need. RW noted that this proposal would not be final development of the service as work would continue to further reduce the level of unmet need.

Sarah Simmonds, (SS), Director of Workforce and OD, sought clarification as to whether changing the location of bases in the north would in turn impact the availability of current staff and impact the 24-7 service. RW advised that there was a mixed picture amongst staff from both affected bases and advised that the EMRTS operational team had provided assurance as to their ability to staff the services. RW

reflected that Recommendation 4 provided further opportunities for staff.

The Chair asked the Board to consider the recommendations as described on the basis that the proposal identifies an improvement of unmet need, with no diminishment of services in rural areas and that the essential work in respect of the bespoke proposal for cover of road services would proceed at pace, with an outcome to be reported upon no later than September 2024

The Board **AGREED** the four recommendations and urged the JCC to progress the work required in respect of recommendation 4 with a view to reporting back to Health Boards in September 2024.

ABUHB
1004/26

Date of the Next Meeting:

- Wednesday 22nd May 2024