

A Major Trauma Network for South and West Wales and South Powys

The NHS Wales Health Collaborative has been working with doctors, nurses and independent experts to develop proposals for a new major trauma network across South Wales and wants to know what you think.

They want to develop services to give you an increased chance of survival and better recovery and quality of life if you suffer a major trauma anywhere in South and West Wales and South Powys.

Major trauma refers to multiple or serious injuries that may result in disability or death. Injuries can include serious head injuries, multiple injuries caused by road traffic accidents, industrial accidents, falls, mass casualty events and knife and gunshot wounds.

About this consultation

NHS Wales Health Collaborative would like to hear the views of everyone living in communities across South and West Wales and South Powys, to make sure the right decision is made for local people.

To do this, they are running a public consultation, supported locally by Powys Teaching Health Board, to find out what you think about the proposals and to ask if there is anything else you want NHS Wales Health Collaborative to consider as these plans are developed.

To help you share your feedback, NHS Wales Health Collaborative has produced a consultation document which explains:

- what is meant by major trauma and a major trauma network
- why a major trauma network for South and West Wales and South Powys region is needed and what this could look like
- their proposal for establishing a major trauma centre in Cardiff and a large trauma unit in Swansea

- how the development of a major trauma network may affect you.

A copy of the consultation document is enclosed. You can also find more information about these plans on the consultation website at

www.publichealthwales.org/majortraumaconsultation

We recognise that this consultation relates to South Powys only, but we are sharing this information across the whole the county to ensure that local stakeholders are aware of these proposals and have the opportunity to respond.

Which areas of Powys are covered by the proposed Major Trauma Network for South and West Wales and South Powys?

The low population density and rural geography in Powys means that it is not viable to sustain a district general hospital within the county. This means that all of us living in Powys rely on district general hospitals in neighbouring counties in both England and Wales, supported by specialist pre-hospital services such as Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust, EMRTS (Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service) and Wales Air Ambulance. Depending on where we live, and the nature of our illness or injury, we may receive our care at one of a number of district general hospitals or regional specialist hospitals such as Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in Shropshire, Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth, or University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.

Some of these hospitals are already part of a Major Trauma Network. This means that:

- People in all parts of Powys have access to major trauma care.
- But, people in some parts of Powys already benefit from major trauma care as part of a Major Trauma Network, whilst others do not.

For example, adults in north east Powys live in an area covered by the North West Midlands and North Wales Major Trauma Network. Royal Shrewsbury Hospital is a Trauma Unit and University Hospital North Midlands in Stoke is a Major Trauma Centre within this network. Children in this area benefit from the children's Major Trauma Centre at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

But, South and West Wales and South Powys is currently the only part of England and Wales not covered by a major trauma network. This is one of the reasons why this consultation is taking place.

It is not possible to draw a clear boundary of where one network starts and another one stops. This is because the location of major trauma care cannot always be predicted in advance. If someone suffers major trauma in Powys then the team of staff at the scene (e.g. ambulance staff) will make life-saving decisions about the right treatment and care to reduce the chances of long term disability or death. This includes decisions about the right hospital to take us to. We may not necessarily be transferred to our closest hospital, but instead to one that has the specialist skills and capacity to provide immediate care and treatment for our serious injuries.

There are some part of Powys where it is highly likely that we would receive our major trauma care through this proposed new network for South and West Wales and South Powys. These include:

- Brecon
- Builth Wells
- Crickhowell
- Hay
- Llanwrtyd Wells
- Talgarth
- Ystradgynlais

There are some parts of Powys where it is highly likely that we would receive our trauma care via the North West Midlands and North Wales Major Trauma Network (rather than the proposed new network for South & West Wales and South Powys). These include:

- Llanfyllin, Llanfair Caereinion and Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant
- Llanidloes
- Machynlleth
- Montgomery
- Newtown

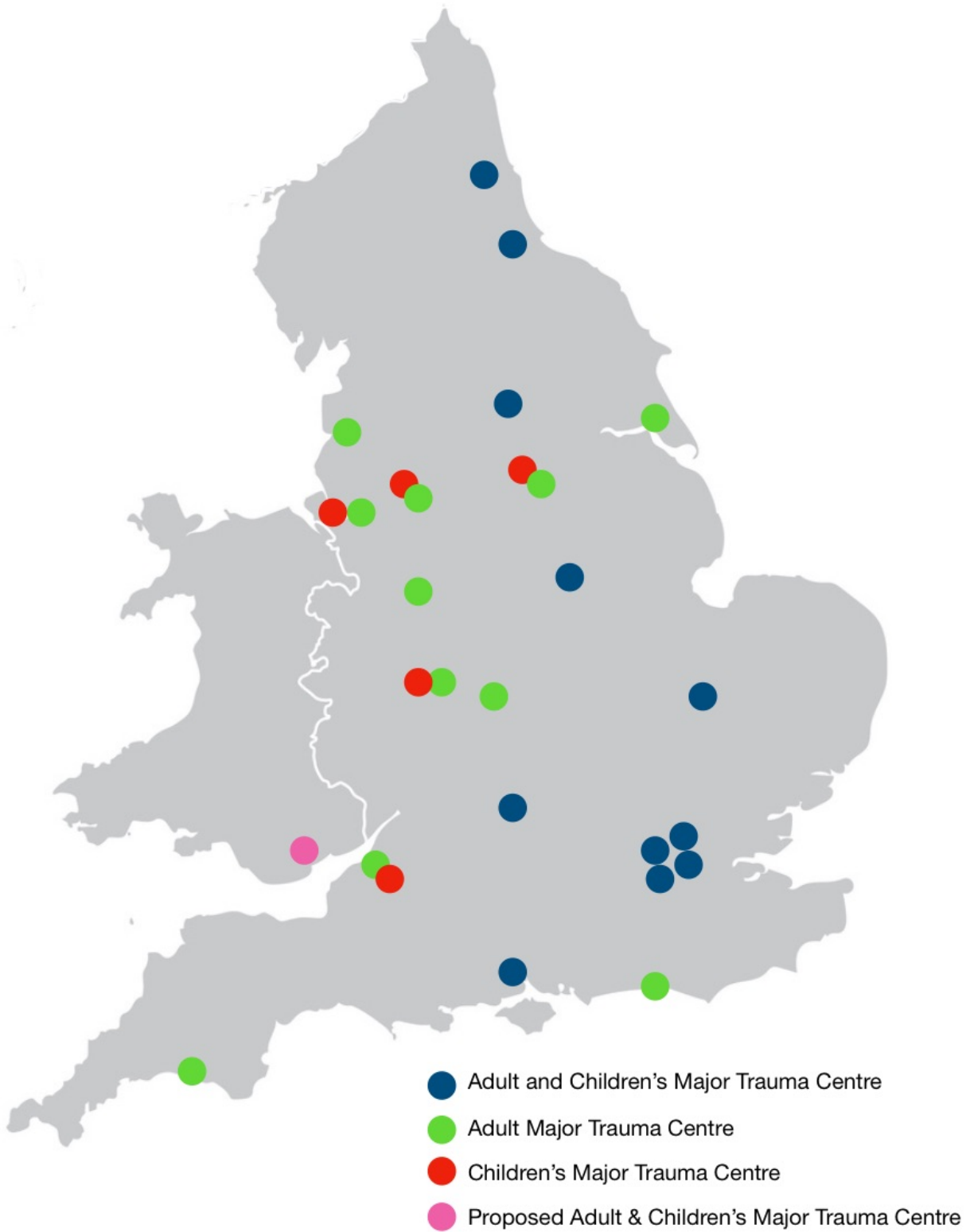
- Welshpool

There are some parts of Powys where the rural nature of mid Wales means that we may receive our major trauma care via the North West Midlands and North Wales Major Trauma Network, or we may receive our care via the proposed new network for South and West Wales and South Powys. The pathway of care would depend on a range of factors including the nature and seriousness of our injuries, the assessment made by EMRTS or ambulance service staff, the skills and capacity of specialist hospitals, travel and transport issues etc. This includes:

- Knighton
- Llandrindod Wells
- Presteigne
- Rhayader

Remember that Major Trauma refers to multiple and serious injuries that may result in disability or death. Injuries can include serious head injuries, multiple injuries caused by road traffic accidents, industrial accidents, falls, mass casualty events and knife and gunshot wounds. These are rare events that require specialist care and treatment from regional centres covering large geographical areas. There is evidence from elsewhere in the UK that the establishing a Major Trauma Network leads to reduced mortality and long term disability for patients who have suffered major trauma.

The map overleaf shows the current and proposed Major Trauma Centres in England and Wales. North Powys and North Wales is already served by Major Trauma Centres in England. This consultation proposes that an additional Adult and Children's Major Trauma Centre is established at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.



***Map of Major Trauma Centres in England and Wales,
including proposed Major Trauma Centre in Cardiff***

How you can help

There is a significant amount of evidence to show that patients who suffer a major trauma have a greater chance of survival and recover better if they are treated within a major trauma network.

An independent clinical panel has looked at the evidence for developing a major trauma network for South and West Wales and South Powys and made the following recommendations.

- a major trauma network for South Wales with a clinical governance infrastructure should be quickly developed.
- the adults' and children's major trauma centres should be on the same site
- the major trauma centre should be at University Hospital Wales, Cardiff
- Morriston Hospital, Swansea should become a large trauma unit and should have a lead role for the major trauma network
- a clear and realistic timetable for putting the trauma network in place should be set.

NHS Wales Health Collaborative is asking you three key questions about the proposal.

1. Do you agree or disagree that a major trauma network should be established for South and West Wales and South Powys?
2. Do you agree or disagree the development of the major trauma network for South and West Wales and South Powys should be based on the recommendations from the independent panel?
3. If a major trauma network for South and West Wales and South Powys is developed, is there anything else that should be considered?

You can give your answers to these questions on the form supplied as part of the main consultation document.

Get involved

It is vital that the best decisions are made for people across South and West Wales and South Powys. This means we need to hear from you – so please read the consultation document and background information below and share your views by Monday 5th February 2018.

Local drop-in events are taking place across South Powys during January, including:

- 1000-1230 on Friday 5 January at Ystradgynlais Library
- 1000-1230 on Tuesday 9 January at Brecon Library
- 1000-1230 on Friday 12 January at Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre

You can answer the survey online at

www.publichealthwales.org/majortraumaconsultation

Or fill in a form electronically and email it to:

NHSWHC.strategicplanning@wales.nhs.uk

If you would prefer to send your response to NHS Wales Health Collaborative by post (you will not need a stamp) please send it to: Freepost MAJOR TRAUMA CONSULTATION. (This address must be written exactly as above including capital letters).

If you need any of these documents translated into another language or format, such as large print, British Sign Language, Braille or audio, please call 029 2050 2674 or email: NHSWHC.strategicplanning@wales.nhs.uk

If you would like to invite a representative from Powys Teaching Health Board to attend your meeting or event to share information about this consultation and gather views, please contact our Engagement Team via powys.engagement@wales.nhs.uk or on 01874 712489.