

Where should our acute mental health assessment beds go?

We want to know what you think



This document was written by Swansea Bay University Health Board. It is an easy read version of 'Changing for the Future. Public Engagement on Our Proposals for the location of Adult Acute Mental Health Assessment Beds'.

February 2022

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 27**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Swansea Bay University Health Board**. For more information contact:

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Introduction



We are **Swansea Bay University Health Board**. We run your local NHS services.



This document is about our ideas for where to put our new **adult acute mental health assessment and treatment beds**.



Acute means severe or very serious.



Assessment is when health professionals look at a person's health to see if they need care and treatment.



These beds are for people who need urgent support and treatment due to very poor mental health.



Over the last 3 years we have spent £3.4 million on making our mental health services better.



We have done a lot of work to provide more services in the community. To stop people getting into **crisis**.



A **crisis** is when someone needs help quickly because their mental health suddenly gets worse.



The last important part of improving our mental health services, is to find a new place to put our **acute mental health assessment and treatment beds**.



We want to hear what you think about where they might go.

Haven't we heard all this before?



Yes. In 2013 we asked where we should put our new **Adult Mental Health Acute Assessment Unit**.



In 2014 we decided there should be 1 unit for the whole of:

- Swansea
- Bridgend
- and Neath Port Talbot.



We decided the unit should be in **Neath Port Talbot Hospital**.



But the area that we now cover has changed. Neath Port Talbot Hospital is no longer in the middle for everyone who lives in Swansea Bay.



For this reason, the new building did not go ahead.

Why do we need to change our services?



We are providing as much support as we can in the community. We want to provide services that stop people getting into **crisis**.



But we also need to make sure we have hospital beds ready for people who need support urgently.



At the moment our **acute mental health assessment and treatment beds** are in 4 different places in:

- Cefn Coed Hospital
- Neath Port Talbot Hospital
- and the Princess of Wales Hospital.



Our mental health wards at Cefn Coed Hospital are not suitable for **acute** care.



They do not have the facilities and privacy that our patients need.



They are not suitable for modern care. And it is not possible to make them good enough.



The mental health ward at Neath Port Talbot Hospital is more modern.



But the **acute assessment beds** here are the only mental health services at this site. So there is not a lot of support from different health professionals.



Within the ward there are :

- beds for 16 to 18 year olds in **crisis**
- beds for **substance misuse** – for people who have taken drugs or drunk too much alcohol.



This is not suitable.



Each of these patient groups has different needs.
They should have their own special areas.



We want to build a new unit that has:

- private bathrooms
- safe and relaxing spaces for therapy
- separate facilities for females and males
- quiet rooms and activity areas.



All of this will help our patients to get better.

What changes do we want to make?



We did a lot of work to decide what changes we should make.



We worked with lots of people and organisations to look at how to make services better for the future.



At the moment, we have **64 adult mental health beds** spread out across:

- Neath Port Talbot Hospital
- Cefn Coed Hospital
- Princess of Wales Hospital



We want to take all these beds out of these hospitals and put them in 1 main new unit.



All the services people with serious mental health issues need, will be available in 1 place.

The new unit will have:



- All 65 adult mental health beds

- 1 **assessment** ward



- 2 treatment wards

- 1 **Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit** for the Swansea Bay area.



- All the services needed for **assessment**. For example therapy support.

- All food and cleaning services.



We have also planned a unit for people getting over addictions to alcohol and drugs, if there is enough need for this service.

Where should the new unit be?



We asked advisors from outside of our organisation to find options for where we can put our new unit.



They found 13 sites for us to look at in the Swansea Bay area.



We held workshops with people to talk about how choose the best site.



We decided that the site must:

- Be easy to get to from across Swansea Bay
- Have safe outdoor spaces
- Be near public transport and local facilities
- Help us to work with other professionals and care services





In January 2021, we decided on 5 sites:

- Cefn Coed Hospital
- 2 sites close to Morriston Hospital
- Neath Port Talbot Hospital
- Singleton Hospital



In April 2021 we held a workshop with:

- health professionals
- local councils
- voluntary organisations
- and people.



They talked about the 5 sites.



They found that **Cefn Coed Hospital** would be the best site.

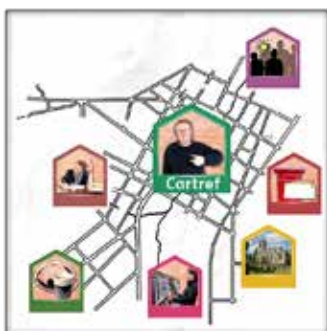
Here are their reasons why:



- Cefn Coed is in a relaxing, quiet space, with fewer people around.



- There is more privacy than other sites which are busier.



- There is green outdoor space.

- It is near the local community.



- It is not near any high-risk areas which might stop people from getting better.



Cefn Coed also already has:

- the Older People's Mental Health wards
- and the Mental Health **Rehabilitation** wards.

Rehabilitation is helping someone to get better after illness, addiction or accident through different kinds of therapy.



Having mental health services together on 1 site makes it easier for patients.



It also helps us to save money, because the staff are all in 1 place. This makes staff cover and travel easier.



It will be quicker to start building as we already own the land.



The Cefn Coed site also supports the results from our last consultation.

How will we get to the unit?



When services are all together on 1 site, it can be hard to get there for some people.



We are working to find ways to make it easier for people who use public transport to get to health services.

Money



We are making these changes to help us to have:

- the best services
- in the best place
- with the best staff.



We need to balance this with the money we have available. We need to spend our money wisely.



We have about £1.1 billion to spend each year.



At the moment we spend more than this.



To get funding from Welsh Government to build the new unit, we need to be clear about where to build it.



We also need to make sure we will have enough money to pay for the unit when it is up and running.

Good things and bad things about these changes

Good things:



- Quality and safety of care for patients will be better in a new unit.



- Our most unwell patients will not have to travel between sites any more.



- The space will be much nicer for patients.



- There will be more privacy for patients.



- Patients will have private bathrooms.



- There will be safe, outdoor spaces.



- Infection control will be easier in a new building. This means stopping the spread of germs and bugs that can cause illnesses.



- It will help us to make community services better.

Bad things:



- There are some bad thoughts and feelings about Cefn Coed Hospital. And the people who go there can be judged by others.



- Public transport to get to 1 main site may make it harder for people to get to.

What will happen to staff



No staff are at risk of losing their job. We have a plan to help us properly manage changes to staff jobs.



Some staff will have to change where they work. Some staff may have to choose a different role.



We will listen to staff members' needs and wishes as much as we can.

Will equality groups be affected?



We need to make sure that any decisions we make do not unfairly impact people with **protected characteristics**.



Protected characteristics are things about a person that they might be treated unfairly for. For example, age, race or religion.



We must think about the effects of these changes. We must think about whether they would make things less equal for people.

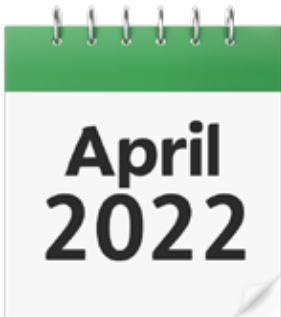
What do you think?



We want to hear from lots of people about what they think of our ideas and plans.



We are working with our Community Health Council to run events to hear from different people.



In April 2022 we will look at the feedback and decide whether we can go ahead with the plans.



Please tell us what you think by **18 March 2022**.

Tell us what you think by:



- Filling in the online form here –



- Writing to us at: Chief Executive,
Swansea Bay UHB
One Talbot Gateway
Baglan
SA12 7BR.



- Emailing us: SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk



- Phoning and leaving a message on:
01639 683355



- Contacting us on Facebook: [Swansea Bay NHS](https://www.facebook.com/SwanseaBayNHS)



- Contacting us on twitter: [@SwanseabayNHS](https://twitter.com/SwanseabayNHS)



Or fill out the response form and email it to us or send it to us in the post.



Other versions of this document are available in Welsh, Large Print, audiobook, British Sign Language video and Braille.



You can find them at: <https://sbuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/public-engagement-consultation>.



Or you can ask us to send them to you by email: SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk.



Or by calling us on: **01639 983355**



You can tell the **Community Health Council** what you think by:



- Writing to them:

Swansea Bay Community Health Council
Cimla Health and Social Care Centre
Cimla
Neath
SA11 3SU



- Emailing them at: swanseabay@waleschc.org.uk

Hard words

Acute

Acute means severe or very serious.

Assessment

Assessment is when health professionals look at a person's health to see if they need care and treatment.

Crisis

A crisis is when someone needs help quickly because their mental health suddenly gets worse.

Protected characteristics

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Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is helping someone to get better after illness, addiction or accident through different kinds of therapy.