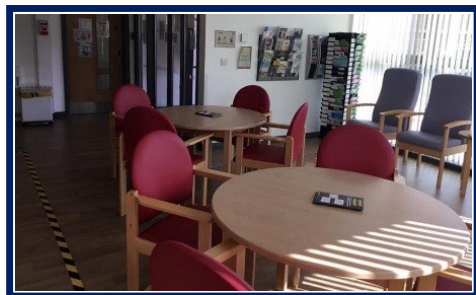


# Improving mental health services for older people in Swansea Bay

**We want to know what you think by 12 September 2021**



This document was written by **Swansea Bay University Health Board**. It is an easy read version of **Appendix A 'Public Engagement – From 5th July to 12th September 2021'**.

**July 2021**

# 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 the words in blue mean on **page 23**.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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

**Website:** [sbuhb.nhs.wales](http://sbuhb.nhs.wales)

**E-mail:** [SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk)

**Phone:** 01639 683355



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, [click here](#).

# Who we are and what we do

We are **Swansea Bay University Health Board**.



We run your local NHS services in the Neath Port Talbot and Swansea areas.



For example:

- GPs, dentists, chemists and opticians



- and community services like therapists, school nurses and health visitors.

## Mental health services



We work with other organisations to provide mental health services in hospitals and in the community.



Most of our mental health services for older people are given in the community.



This means patients can stay in their own homes or care homes.



People can get extra help from GPs, social services, voluntary organisations, carers, and families.



We have special mental health hospital beds for people who need a lot of mental healthcare. They are in:

- Ysbryd Y Coed in **Cefn Coed Hospital**
- **Neath Port Talbot Hospital**
- **Tonna Hospital**

# What this document is about



This document tells you about the changes we want to make to the mental health services for older people in the Swansea Bay area.

**We want to know what you think about 3 things:**



1. We want to know what you think about our plans to make **1 service** for older people with mental health needs across Swansea Bay.



This service is for people with the greatest mental health needs. These people cannot be looked after anywhere else and might need support for a long time.



2. We want to know what you think about our plans to **lower the number of hospital beds** we have. We also want to change how we use them.



3. And we want to know about **your experiences** of how we support older people with mental health needs in the Swansea Bay area.

# What happened to our service during the Covid-19 pandemic



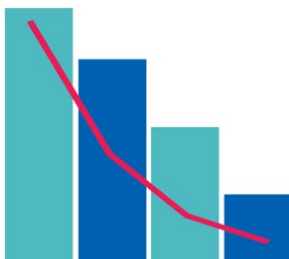
When the Covid-19 pandemic started, the NHS in Wales worked hard to find more hospital beds for the new Covid-19 patients.



So we made some changes to our mental health services for older people:



- We moved patients from Neath Port Talbot Hospital to Tonna Hospital so there was more space for Covid-19 patients.



- And we lowered the number of hospital beds at Cefn Coed Hospital, to help stop Covid spreading between patients.



During the pandemic, we learnt that:



- it was good for staff and patients to have these services in o1 place
- Tonna Hospital needs repairs and better bathrooms
- some of our beds are not used much.



Covid-19 also meant many operations were cancelled. We now have a long waiting list for operations.

# How we care for older people with mental health needs in the community



We want to help people get good care at home, or as close to home as possible.



This is because it is better for your health if you are treated at home.



Especially if you are old or not very strong.



Our community teams try to see people as soon as something goes wrong.





This means they are less likely to go to hospital.



But sometimes people have to go to hospital because there is no other way to help them.

# How we want to change things for older people with mental health needs

## Joining services together



We think we can give people better care by joining together the service for Neath Port Talbot with the service for Swansea.



This means we can give the same good service to everyone in Swansea Bay through 1 service.



We want to move our specialist hospital beds from Neath Port Talbot Hospital, to Tonna Hospital and Cefn Coed Hospital.



We think we will still be able to help the people we need to.



This means we will no longer have any specialist beds at Neath Port Talbot.

## Fewer hospital beds



Before the Covid-19 pandemic we had 112 specialist hospital beds in 3 hospitals.

In our new plan we will have:

- 15 beds in Tonna Hospital
- 60 beds in Cefn Coed Hospital



So that is **75 beds** altogether for people in Swansea Bay with the greatest mental health needs.



We will also have some short-term hospital beds in Cefn Coed Hospital for everyone in Swansea Bay.



We will move people who need longer care to Cefn Coed Hospital and Tonna Hospital.



We know that Tonna Hospital needs some repairs.



So we plan to repair the new rooms to make them better for our patients.

# What these changes mean for Neath Port Talbot Hospital



There would no longer be hospital beds for older people with mental health needs at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.



There would no longer be day services for older people needing mental health support at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.



We would use the space at Neath Port Talbot Hospital to help patients who need operations on their joints.



For example, knees and hips.



Lots of people in Swansea Bay are waiting for these kinds of operation.

# What these changes mean for Tonna Hospital



Tonna Hospital will provide hospital beds for older people with mental health needs.



Tonna Hospital will provide day services in the newly repaired rooms.



Tonna Hospital will continue to offer lots of other healthcare services.



For example:

- Mother and Baby Mental Health Unit



- Autism service



- Community Drug and Alcohol Service



# What these changes mean for Cefn Coed Hospital



During the Covid-19 pandemic all older people in Swansea Bay with mental health needs went to Cefn Coed Hospital for their **assessment**.



An **assessment** means checking a person's health to see if they need care. And what care they might need.



We want to carry on using Cefn Coed Hospital for **assessments** for all older people in Swansea Bay with mental health needs.



This is part of our new plan.



Cefn Coed Hospital will still provide all the other health services it did before the Covid-19 pandemic.



Day support will still be given at Westfa, Gorseinon and Garngoch as normal.

# Using our money better



We need to make sure we are using our money, our staff, and buildings as well as we can.



At the moment, we are spending too much money on hospital beds that we do not use.



We think our plans will save us money and:

- mean more people will get the operations they need more quickly



- let us repair Tonna Hospital



- and mean we do not use as many temporary staff.



We hope to save some money so we can use it on mental health services given in the community.



We want to make **1 single service** to support older people with the greatest mental health needs in Swansea Bay.



Anyone in Swansea Bay would access this support at Cefn Coed Hospital.



If they need more support, patients will stay at Cefn Coed Hospital. Or they will go to Tonna Hospital if they live in the Neath Port Talbot area.



We think these changes will be a better use of our staff and money.



We have already spent a lot of money on mental health services in the community. So we think we can lower these hospital beds without it being bad for our patients.



We think our patients will still be able to get the right help when they need it.

# What these changes mean for staff



We have spoken with staff working in Older People's Mental Health Services about the changes we want to make.



They understand why we want to make the changes.



They will look at the plans.



With the new plan, many staff will move to Tonna Hospital.



Other staff will move to other jobs in the NHS.



We have promised that staff will not lose their jobs.

# Good things and bad things about the changes we want to make

## Good things



Having the same nurses and medical staff for all mental health patients will mean better care for patients.



When patients have more support at home it means they will not have to stay in hospital as much.



It will be easier to make sure our hospitals have enough staff.



Patients will have access to more medical care and therapists in the hospital and community services.



We will not need to use so many temporary staff. This means better care and saving money.



We will be able to spend money on repairing Tonna Hospital to make our bedrooms better for our patients.





We will be able to offer more joint operations for patients at Neath Port Talbot Hospital. For example, knee and hip operations.



Swansea Bay will still have more than the average number of beds for patients over 65 years old.

## Bad things



Changes to hospital care means moving some staff. This could be bad for their well-being.



People might not understand care is moving from hospitals to the community. They might think services will be cut.

## Making sure the plan works



We have set up a group to check what happens when we make these changes.



# What these changes mean for different groups of people



We need to think about whether our changes have a bad effect on some people.



We need to follow a law called the Equality Act 2010.

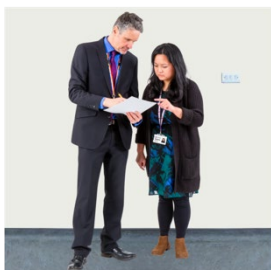


This law says it is illegal to treat someone unfairly because of a **protected characteristic**, like disability.



A **protected characteristic** is something that makes you who you are. There are 9 **protected characteristics**. They are:

- age
- disability
- changing gender
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation



We will keep checking our plans to make sure no one is treated unfairly.

# Finding out about your experiences



We are working with other organisations to make a **Strategic Framework for Older People's Mental Health**.



This is a plan and guidelines that will tell everyone about the services for people with mental health needs in Swansea Bay.



We want to hear your experiences of our services.



We want to hear about the good and the bad.



And we want to hear your ideas about what we can do to make things better.



We will ask people what they think about our **Strategic Framework** when we finish it at the end of 2021.

# Finding out what people think about our plans



Between 5 July and the 12 September 2021, we are asking people what they think about our plans.



We will ask patients, carers, organisations, politicians and the public.



This will help us make our plans better.



In October we will think about all the ideas and feedback people give us.



We will use these ideas to decide if we should make the changes to the service for older people with mental health needs.

# How to tell us what you think

You can tell us what you think by



## Writing to us at:

Chief Executive  
Swansea Bay UHB  
One Talbot Gateway  
Baglan  
SA12 7BR



Emailing us at [SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk)



Phoning us 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 filling in our survey and sending it to us by  
email or in the post.

# Accessible formats



You can get this document and the survey in Welsh and other languages.



You can also get it in **accessible formats**, like audio, Braille and British Sign Language.



You can get these by phoning 01639 683355.



Or by emailing [SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk)

You can also tell your Community Health Council about what you think:



**by writing to them at:**

Swansea Bay Community Health Council,  
Cimla Hospital,  
Cimla,  
Neath  
SA11 3SU



Or emailing [swanseabay@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:swanseabay@waleschc.org.uk)

# Hard words

## Assessment

An assessment means checking a person's health to see if they need care. And what care they might need.

## Protected characteristic

A protected characteristic is something that makes you who you are. There are 9 protected characteristics. They are:

- age
- disability
- changing gender
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation