**Update of review of thoracic surgery**

Tuesday, 30 January 2018

In recent months the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) has worked with a range of individuals and organisations, including Health Boards, to review the provision of thoracic surgery in South Wales.

As part of this process, an independent panel also reviewed the evidence and made a recommendation on how best to ensure these specialist services would be sustainable for the future and provide patients with the best possible care.

Yesterday, the Joint Committee of the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) - which is made up of the chief executives of all Health Boards - accepted the recommendations of the Independent Panel that services should be provided from a single site rather the current two sites in Cardiff and Swansea, and that the new single unit should be based in Morriston Hospital, Swansea.  
  
Further work and engagement will now be carried out on the implementation of such a change with all key partners and stakeholders including Health Boards and local Community Health Councils. Dr Sian Lewis, Managing Director of Welsh Health Specialised Service said:  
  
**“We believe that this is a unique opportunity to improve the quality of care for thoracic patients in south Wales and would like to thank all those who took part in the engagement exercise which has informed each step of this process, including the CHCs, patients, public and staff.”**

Professor Hamish Laing, ABMU Medical Director said:

**“We are delighted to be working with our partners towards hosting the network for thoracic surgery across south Wales. We look forward to working with WHSST and the other South Wales Health Boards to design pathways for thoracic surgery that give every patient the support and access they need to get the best outcome and experience of care, wherever they live.”**

Len Richards, Cardiff and Vale UHB Chief Executive said:

**"We respect the decision of the Independent Panel and will continue to work with our colleagues in ABMU to ensure that together we develop a strong network of thoracic services with surgery based in Morriston. Naturally our staff will be very disappointed as they have delivered an exceptional service over many years at University Hospital Wales. We will support our staff and ensure that we understand and respond to the individual circumstances of each and every one of them, to ensure that we minimise the disruption of the proposed change.**

**"We are also mindful of the impact and concern that this will create amongst some of our long-standing thoracic patients and we will do our utmost to ensure that they are fully informed and assured of their continued treatment and care.  
We will continue to be supportive of any consultation process and continue to work with our colleagues at ABMU and Welsh Government and WHSSC to progress the proposals for the benefits of patients across south Wales.”**

Source: [Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board](http://www.abm.wales.nhs.uk/)