



**Partnership working across  
Wales to support the  
response to COVID-19**



## Introduction

The outbreak of COVID-19 has meant that the health and social care system across Wales is facing its biggest challenge for generations. Staff are working right across the system, from intensive care units (ICUs), GP practices, ambulance services, mental health support services and social care services are stepping up to meet the needs of the people of Wales in an increasingly challenging and stressful environment. Partnership working and collaboration are no longer aspirational goals, they are a necessity if the NHS is to rise to the challenge of providing care and support the people of Wales at this time.

Health and social care organisations have been working across the public, private and voluntary sectors to transform services. From providing increased services digitally to support people to stay at home, to working with the private sector to increase bed capacity across the system so many more patients with the greatest need can be treated in acute settings. The transformations that have taken place are a demonstration of an enormous national, cross-sector and compassionate response to the challenges that face the population of Wales.

Volunteer groups and private sector companies alike have responded admirably to the Welsh Government's plea for greater collaboration, not least in the rapid manufacturing and deployment of vital personal protective equipment (PPE) for health and care staff, there is still much more to do and more help needed. Elsewhere, community groups have stepped up to provide exercise classes for the most at-risk groups so that they can stay active and healthy while in self-isolation; volunteers are helping rural communities with basic but essential tasks like grocery shopping and picking up prescriptions; and Universities and colleges are supporting the NHS to deliver vital training sessions for thousands of students and recently-retired professionals returning to work at this unprecedented time.

This briefing will be the first in a series of publications that aims to showcase just some of the ways that NHS organisations in Wales are working with charities, private enterprise, volunteers, community groups and others to deliver and transform key services to respond to COVID-19. It is hoped that some of the work highlighted here will inspire us to think about and do what we all can do to help as well as sharing learning across the health and care sectors.

**Aneurin Bevan  
 University Health  
 Board**

**Partnership working with the Royal Mint to supply vital personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline NHS staff**

The Royal Gwent Hospital in Aneurin Bevan UHB is among many hospitals across Wales that has received a kind donation of vital PPE manufactured by the Royal Mint. In just 48 hours, engineers at the Royal Mint designed a prototype visor, and following successful testing, these visors are already being used on the frontline.

The Royal Mint worked across the private sector with suppliers including Brammer, TJ Morgan and Technical Foam Services to source the raw components for manufacturing the visors. Subject to securing greater quantities of these components, the Royal Mint has committed to stepping up its manufacture of the visors to further support frontline NHS staff, particularly in areas with exceptional levels of demand.



**Partnership working with the private sector to open a rapid testing at Rodney Parade, Newport**

Aneurin Bevan UHB have worked in partnership with Dragons Rugby Club in Newport to secure Rodney Parade as a rapid testing location for COVID-19. The new centre will provide timely, convenient access to the people of Gwent, the locality with the highest number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, to rapid testing. The public are advised the facility is currently for front-line health and care workers; but there are plans to expand this to other critical workers including the police, fire service, and prison staff.



Dragons Rugby are working with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to open Rodney Parade as a rapid testing location during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**THE HEALTH SERVICE  
 AND CARE WORKERS**



**Betsi Cadwaladr  
 University Health  
 Board**

**Public sector collaboration to produce vital PPE for staff at Ysbyty Gwynedd**

Ensuring that all NHS Wales staff have access to appropriate levels of PPE is a challenge faced by Health Boards across Wales. Over five million pieces of PPE have been distributed to NHS organisations and care homes, including some pieces that have been produced and distributed by private sector organisations and public sector partners.

In North Wales, organisations have come together to produce and distribute additional pieces of PPE for staff at Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor. This effort has been supported by two Local Authorities - Cyngor Gwynedd Council and Anglesey Council – one education provider (Coleg Llandrillo Menai) – and a range of private bodies, not-for-profit organisations and individual enterprises: North Wales Tech (a technology and developer community in North Wales); Creo Medical (a medical device company focused on surgical endoscopy); FAUN Trackway (a firm that specializes in bespoke manufacturing solutions in Trackway solutions); and Menter Môn (a not-for-profit company that works in partnership to provide solutions to common challenges, particularly in rural areas).

M-SParc  
 @M\_SParc

Tonight, healthcare workers at Ysbyty Gwynedd @BetsiCadwaladr are wearing your visors! Created by @northwalestech, @CouncilGwynedd and @angleseycouncil schools, colleges @LlandrilloMenai, businesses @wyn\_griffith @CreoMedical @FAUNTRACKWAY and organizations like @MenterMon.



**Collaboration with Local Authorities to increase bed capacity**

Betsi Cadwaladr UHB has worked closely with Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Council and Conwy Council to secure two temporary field hospitals in North Wales. These hospitals will be located at Venue Cymru in Llandudno and Deeside Leisure Centre. Cumulatively, these temporary hospitals will provide capacity for 500 additional beds, thereby reducing pressure on hospitals across the Health Board area so that they can be used to treat patients with the greatest need.

Conwy Council  
 @ConwyCBC

We're proud to be supporting @BetsiCadwaladr by allocating @VenueCymru as a temporary medical provision for the area. More info: [bit.ly/3dCknhl](https://bit.ly/3dCknhl)



**Cardiff and  
 Vale  
 University  
 Health Board**

**Partnership working with Elderfit to keep older people active at home**

Cardiff & Vale UHB, through its Health Charity, is working in partnership with Elderfit to fund exercise DVDs so that older people can stay healthy and active at home while in self-isolation.

Elderfit is a Community Interest Company that specialises in exercise for the older person. Their aim is to reduce falls through strength and balance exercises, as well as offering a socially stimulating environment. The programme has been designed in conjunction with Cardiff and Vale UHB and Public Health Wales not only to improve people’s physical health through exercises that improve balance and co-ordination, but also to improve mental wellbeing by providing an opportunity for older people to make new friends and socialise during the sessions. Elderfit proactively approached Cardiff and Vale Health Charity when they heard that community sessions had temporarily been cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.



Cardiff & Vale Health Charity is delighted to be working with Elderfit to fund exercise DVDs so that older people can stay healthy and active at home during the Coronavirus outbreak.  
[cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/news/52384](http://cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/news/52384)



**Ysbyty Calon Y Ddraig/ Dragon’s Heart Hospital**

Cardiff and Vale UHB have worked closely with The Welsh Rugby Union to transform the Principality Stadium into a temporary field hospital; Ysbyty Calon Y Ddraig/ Dragon’s Heart Hospital. This initiative will be used primarily as a ‘step-down’ facility (to treat people who are recovering from medical treatment), which will ease demand on the University Hospital of Wales and other settings in the region so that they can treat patients with the highest clinical need first. The Dragon’s Heart Hospital will provide capacity for an additional 2,000 beds in total.



We are pleased to reveal the name of the temporary hospital at the #PrincipalityStadium, which has been named Ysbyty Calon y Ddraig, Dragon’s Heart Hospital.

Thank you all for your suggestions!

Read more in this week’s CEO Connects. #calonyddraig

[cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/docu...](http://cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/docu...)



**Cwm Taf  
Morgannwg  
University  
Health Board**


**High-tech support from the education sector to share vital health information**

Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB have been working with innovation experts at Swansea University Medical School and Health Technology Centre to develop new e-whiteboards which will be used to record important health details while a patient is on the ward.

Unlike traditional notes (where patient information is written up at the start of every day), the new, digital system allows staff to access the system remotely and drop patients (and all their information) into digital beds that reflect a real-time view of the ward and its layout, which are then displayed on a large TV screen. This means frontline staff are not required to handle personal devices to access patient information, which reduces the potential for the buildup of bacteria. Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB has been working on a prototype of the board with help from the Health Technology Centre, and early indications are showing that they are having an extremely positive impact on COVID-specific wards and the effectiveness of multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs).

Press Office | News | 2020 | April

**UNIVERSITY'S HIGH-TECH HELP TO SHARE VITAL HEALTH INFORMATION**



Friday 3 April 2020 10:39 UTC  
**Kathy Thomas**  
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**Share Story** [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

Innovation experts at Swansea University are playing a key role in improving the way hospitals use information about patients.

**Partnership working across sectors to increase bed capacity**

Two temporary field hospitals will be in operation at Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB thanks to partnership working with the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and Rhondda



Field Hospital takes shape – Work to increase bed capacity at Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB

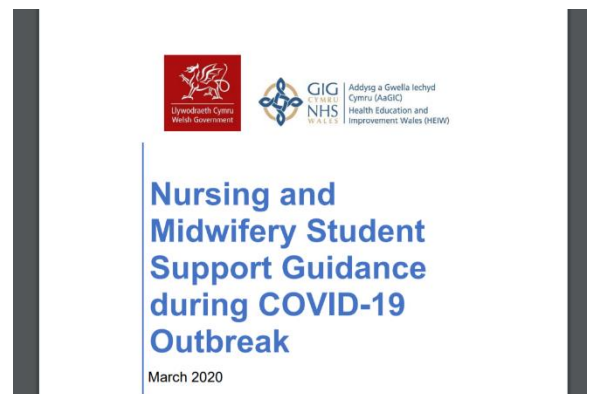
Cynon Taf Council. The Vale Resort, which is managed by the WRU, will increase capacity by around 450, and office accommodation at Rhondda Cynon Taf Council in Abercynon (Tŷ Trevithick) a further 150.

**Health  
 Education and  
 Improvement  
 Wales**

**Nursing and midwifery student support guidance**

The COVID-19 pandemic means we are in unprecedented times with significant pressures being placed upon our health and care services. HEIW has responded to the increasing levels of demand being placed on frontline NHS services by producing specific guidance for nursing and midwifery students. The purpose of the guidance is to clarify what the current pandemic means for students at different points in their study, and how they can support the health and care system during this time of emergency.

To produce this guidance, HEIW has worked collaboratively with the National Midwifery Council (NMC), a number of Royal Colleges, Council of Deans of Health, Government departments of the four nations; and staff-side representatives. Working collaboratively from the outset has meant that the guidance considers how individual skill sets can be used most effectively to support the system while prioritising the safety of the workforce and staff wellbeing.



**All Wales staff health and wellbeing resource**

On behalf of NHS Wales Directors of Workforce and OD, and in partnership with staff health and wellbeing leads and Trade Unions, Health Education and Improvement Wales has developed an [NHS Wales Staff Wellbeing Covid -19 Resource](#). This resource is available to anyone working in healthcare and provides access to a range of wellbeing information, toolkits and guidance to support health and wellbeing.



**Hywel Dda  
 University  
 Health Board**

**Provision of vital equipment from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service**

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has supported Hywel Dda UHB (and Aneurin Bevan UHB) by deploying backup mass decontamination units to Wwithybush Hospital. The unit means staff at Wwithybush Hospital have increased space and capacity to triage patients and provide protection against the weather.



**Parc y Scarlets to increase bed capacity**

Hywel Dda UHB have worked closely with Parc y Scarlets and Carmarthenshire County Council to transform three areas of the stadium complex as a short-term field hospital and ease demand on secondary care settings across the Health Board. It is anticipated that this development will increase bed capacity at the Health Board by around 500.

Carmarthenshire County Council has also commissioned contractors to turn Carmarthen Leisure Centre and indoor bowls hall the Selwyn Samuel Centre into temporary bed spaces for the NHS.

**Volunteer training at Pembrokeshire College**

The Health Board has also worked closely with Pembrokeshire College to support the education and training of those who are volunteering to support the health and social care system. Establishing and developing close relationships with the education sector in West Wales has meant that the Health Board has delivered vital training sessions quickly to respond to the increasing demand on the NHS workforce.





**Powys  
Teaching  
Health Board**

**Community Connectors to support people across Powys**

The Community Connector Service, which is delivered by the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO), supports people in Powys (aged 18+) and their families or carers to access community-level services and activities that help them maintain independent lives. The service also supports early intervention practices by helping people in Powys to access the support services when they need them, rather than allowing their wellbeing to deteriorate and require hospital admission.

The service is sponsored by Powys Regional Partnership Board and supported by clear channels of communication and engagement with the Health Board. The Community Connector service is now being used primarily to advise, support and signpost vulnerable people in Powys around how to stay safe, healthy and active during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scheme, which is joint-funded by the Health Board, the Regional Partnership Board, the County Council and Welsh Government, is also helping to connect vulnerable people, particularly those who live in isolated communities, to volunteers at the Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) in Wales.

As well as signposting people to organisations such as the DPJ Foundation (a mental health charity that supports people who work in agriculture) and Farming Community Network Cymru (a volunteer-led group that provides free, confidential, pastoral and practical support to young farmers), members of the YFC are supporting the health, wellbeing and independence of vulnerable people in Powys by helping them with grocery shopping, collecting vital prescriptions and signposting them to vital services in the community.



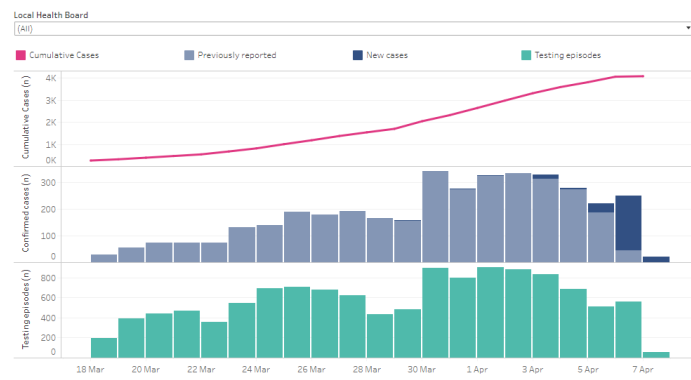
**Public Health  
Wales NHS  
Trust**

**Interactive data dashboard launched by Public Health Wales**

The Public Health Wales Coronavirus Surveillance Cell has launched an interactive [data dashboard](#) to enable the health system, the public and media in Wales to find out more about COVID-19 in Wales.

The dashboard will be updated daily at 2pm and will be the primary source of public health data relating to Coronavirus in Wales.

At launch, the dashboard includes information about the number of confirmed cases in Wales by Local Authority area, the number of individuals tested, and the age and sex distribution of confirmed cases.



**Public Health Wales Engagement Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus in Wales**

Public Health Wales are conducting a public engagement telephone survey to ask members of the public how coronavirus and related control measures are affecting their health and wellbeing. The information provided will be anonymous, confidential and will be used to help inform the response of public services in Wales.

**Joint-working with the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)**

Public Health Wales has produced recent graphics to encourage audiences to register to volunteer via [Volunteering Wales](#). Public Health Wales are currently working with the WCVA and Welsh Government to improve communication around the registration process, manage volunteer expectations and provide guidance on how to volunteer safely.

**Swansea Bay  
 University  
 Health Board**

**Donation from Tata Steel to increase PPE provision to frontline staff**

Swansea Bay UHB has received a kind donation of vital PPE from Tata Steel to support frontline staff in tackling COVID-19. Based in Port Talbot, Tata Steel sourced masks, gloves, aprons and shoe covers from suppliers around the UK to pass on to frontline staff. Crucially, all the donated equipment already meets, and has passed, the necessary requirements and regulations that any PPE must do before staff are able to use it.

 **Swansea Bay NHS**  
 @SwanseabayNHS

A massive THANK YOU from all of us at Swansea Bay to everyone at Tata Steel in Port Talbot. The team there donated and delivered personal protective equipment (PPE).  
 Read the full story here:  
[tinyurl.com/rpk798u](https://tinyurl.com/rpk798u)



**Collaborative working with Local Authorities and the private sector to increase bed capacity**

Swansea Bay UHB has worked in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Council to transform the Llandarcy Academy of Sports into a temporary field hospital. The additional bed capacity that the Academy will provide is in addition to the measures that have already been taken at Morrison Hospital, Singleton Hospital and Neath Port Talbot Hospital to increase bed capacity, as outpatients and other clinical and public areas are redesigned.

The Health Board has also engaged in positive discussions with privately-owned Bay Studios, which has the potential for 1,000 beds if needed, but these are expected to come online after Llandarcy's. Initial work at Bay Studios will include

 **Swansea Bay NHS**  
 @SwanseabayNHS

Work begins on two field hospitals for the Swansea Bay area. At Bay Studios and the Llandarcy Academy of Sport. Full story: [sbuhb.nhs.wales/news/swansea-b...](https://sbuhb.nhs.wales/news/swansea-b...)  
 #COVID19



improving services infrastructure, including power, plumbing and heating before bed cubicles are installed. Swansea Council and Neath Port Talbot Council are managing and overseeing construction work at both field hospital sites, allowing Health Board staff to concentrate on planning the expansion of its services, staffing, and dealing with other COVID-19 health issues.



**Velindre  
 University  
 NHS Trust**

**Reconfiguration of services to support strategic working and promote safe working**

In response to challenges posed by COVID-19 on the health and social care system, the Welsh Blood Service, which is managed by Velindre University NHS Trust, has transformed its services to continue its blood donation programme in light of the considerable increase in demand on NHS organisations.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020, the Welsh Blood Service is operating from a much smaller number of strategically located Regional Donation Hubs. These Hubs will be in different locations each week, with each Hub staying in one location for no more than a few consecutive days. Eligible donors will be invited to attend the closest Hub to their homes to donate blood.



Fewer venues give the Welsh Blood Service greater control over the clinical environment, making it easier to maintain the highest standards of venue cleanliness and practice social distancing. Furthermore, these Hubs will relieve the pressures associated with venue cancellations and reduced staff numbers. The public are encouraged to keep track of the Welsh Blood Service’s website and social media channels to keep informed about where their nearest regional Hub will be at any given time. The public are reminded also that travel to donate blood is considered essential travel under the UK Government guidelines.

**Welsh  
 Ambulance  
 Services NHS  
 Trust (WAST)**

**Collaborative working with The Ministry of Defense**

60 Army Wales soldiers attended training to prepare to support the Welsh Ambulance Service as they continue to make preparations to battle the coronavirus outbreak.

LCpl Fitch is one of sixty @Army\_Wales soldiers that attended training this week to prepare to support the @WelshAmbulance Service during the #coronavirus outbreak. #inthistgether

Training covered Basic Lifesaving Support (BLS) and driving, watch the video to find out more 📺



The training saw soldiers learn Basic Lifesaving Support as well as driving skills. The training will allow soldiers to speed up the delivery of care to those in the most need. While paramedics treat patients, soldiers will be able to deploy the correct equipment so the paramedics can focus on delivering the highest standard of care.

**Keep the Beats: Supporting the wellbeing of people in rural communities with temporary defibrillators**

When a person experiences a cardiac arrest, their chance of survival halves with every minute that they do not receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). CPR and effective use of a defibrillator before an ambulance arrives doubles a person’s chance of survival. At a time when WAST is experiencing levels of exceptional demand, ‘Keep the Beats’ is about training as many people as possible in CPR and use of a defibrillator. Launched by the Awyr Lâs charity, which works to support people in North Wales to benefit from NHS services when they need them most, Keep the Beats have placed additional temporary defibrillators in rural communities to reduce demand on WAST and improve access to this vital intervention.

 Cadwch Curiadau / Keep the Beats @CadwchCuriadau

In response to the high demand being placed on the Welsh Ambulance Service, we have placed additional temporary defibrillators in rural communities in North Wales 🇬🇧❤️.

It is vital we all help to make a difference and support the wonderful work of our NHS team.

#defibs #nhs



**NHS Wales  
 Informatics  
 Service  
 (NWIS)**

NHS Wales Informatics Service is supporting NHS Wales in delivering essential services to patients and the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of NWIS' work on an organisational level includes:

- Increasing the bandwidth of key technology to enable more clinical, technical and support staff to work remotely;
- Supporting local uptake of the cloud services that NHS Wales has invested in, including Microsoft Office 365; and
- Supporting the collection, linking and sharing of health data to support operational services and emergency response planning.

On a local level, NWIS have been supporting GP surgeries across Wales to transform ways of working while also helping the public to stay indoors and receive key services. Some of the initiatives underway are:

- **Video consultations – Attend Anywhere:** Plans are underway to provide video consultations to all GP practices at the earliest opportunity. The NWIS Primary Care Services team are involved in the implementation of the Attend Anywhere product which is being led by Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Cymru.
- **GP remote working:** NWIS have been working on a digital solution that allows GP staff to gain emergency access to their practice-based computer from a home computer or laptop.
- **Welsh Clinical Portal (WCP) View Access for GPs:** The WCP will give GPs access to important patient information held in the secondary care record. It gives access to discharge summaries, test results and clinical letters from every hospital in Wales, including radiology reports.
- **COVID-19 data collection and dashboard:** NWIS are working on several initiatives to capture, collect and analyse data that will inform national planning and operational delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. This data will be shared with Public Health Wales, Welsh Government and NHS organisations.





**NHS Wales  
Shared  
Services  
Partnership  
(NWSSP)**

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership is actively involved in the emergency planning response to the current COVID-19 public health emergency. NWSSP's priority is to utilise expertise and resources to support frontline NHS services in light of the increasing demand placed on all NHS organisations from COVID-19, and to maintain the safety and wellbeing of staff across the system.

**Supporting NHS organisations and the private sector to increase production of vital PPE**

In response to the pressures placed on the NHS by COVID-19 and the demand for PPE across the system, the South Wales Additive and Rapid Manufacturing (SWARM) Consortium has been established.

NWSSP has been actively involved with SWARM, alongside colleagues in NHS organisations, the private sector and the School of Chemistry at Swansea University among others, to launch support campaigns in response to specific, emerging NHS supply chain needs. The first of these campaigns is focused on sourcing the necessary raw materials to manufacture protective masks and visors for NHS staff across South Wales. NWSSP's input to SWARM has been vital to ensure alignment with existing NHS Wales procurement arrangements and ensuring that PPE reaches frontline staff as quickly as possible.

**SWARM - Urgent Industry call FFP3 Protective Masks and Visors**



## How can the Welsh NHS Confederation help you?

The Welsh NHS Confederation is the only national membership body which represents all the organisations that make up the NHS in Wales: the seven Local Health Boards, the three NHS Trusts and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW).

You can visit our website at [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org) or follow us on Twitter  [@WelshConfed](https://twitter.com/WelshConfed)

If you would like more information on this briefing. Please contact [our Director, Darren Hughes](mailto:our.Director.Darren.Hughes)

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