The NHS in Wales

Overview

In 2009 NHS Wales was reorganised and single local health organisations were created to deliver all healthcare services within a geographical area, replacing the Trusts and Local Health Boards that existed previously. The NHS now delivers services through seven Health Boards and three NHS Trusts in Wales.

Health Boards

The seven Local Health Boards (LHBs) in Wales plan, secure and deliver healthcare services in their areas:

- Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board;
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board;
- Hywel Dda Health Board;
- Cwm Taf Health Board;
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board;
- Powys Teaching Health Board.
NHS Trusts

There are currently three NHS Trusts in Wales. These are the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust for emergency services; Velindre NHS Trust offering specialist services in cancer care and a range of national support services; and the new Public Health Wales.

Public Health Wales is the unified Public Health organisation in Wales. The organisation became fully operational in 2009 and now exercises the functions of the National Public Health Service, Wales Centre for Health, Welsh Cancer Intelligence & Surveillance Unit, Congenital Anomaly Register & Information Service for Wales, and Screening Services Wales - all with a nationwide remit.

General Practice in Wales

The seven health boards across Wales have created ‘primary care clusters’ - 64 groups of neighbouring GP practices and partner organisations which provide services for their local populations of between 30,000 and 50,000 people.

The cluster design promotes joint working across practices and the integration of primary care services with key partners such as the Ambulance Trust, Local Authority and Third Sector. Clusters also have a key role in supporting local health needs assessments, allocating appropriate resources and forecasting the potential future demand on primary care.

There are 2,887 GPs in Wales and 454 GP Practices, looking after a population of almost three million. Patients in Wales come into contact with the NHS some 20 million times each year, with 80% of contacts taking place outside of a hospital.

Recruitment initiatives

The Welsh Government and NHS Wales launched the “This is Wales: Train, Work, Live” campaign in October 2016, in order to promote Wales as an excellent place for doctors, including GPs, and their families, to train, work and live.
There are financial incentives, and doctors who begin their training in Wales in 2017:
- Will have their first AKT and CSA examination fees paid for by Welsh Government
- Will be eligible for a £20,000 incentive if they choose to train in the following schemes: Aberystwyth, Bangor, Dyffryn Clwyd, Pembrokeshire and Wrexham (GP trainees who commit to undertake their ST3 year in a training practice in Powys will also be eligible for this incentive)

NHS Wales
Public Health Wales
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