













GIG
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WALES

Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau
Ambwlans Brys
Emergency Ambulance
Services Committee

Our 2 ideas about making the air ambulance service better in Wales



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What is the air ambulance service



The air ambulance service is made up of helicopters and cars.



The air ambulance service gives emergency care to patients where something has happened.

For example, if there has been an accident, or if someone is suddenly very unwell.



They give care and treatment to patients who are in a very serious condition.



The air ambulance service can get to patients in places that are hard to get to.

What happens if you need the air ambulance service



1. If someone has an accident or needs medical help quickly they call 999



2. The NHS answers the call. They decide what help the patient needs



3. The air ambulance service checks to see if the patient needs their help



4. The air ambulance team then decides on the best way to get to the patient. This might be by helicopter or by car



5. The air ambulance team treats the patient. They take them to the hospital that can help them best

How the air ambulance service is run



The Wales Air Ambulance Charity pays for things like:



- helicopters and cars



- **bases.** This is where helicopters take off from and land at



- people to fly the helicopters



- people to look after the helicopters and make sure they are working well



NHS Wales pays for the staff and medical equipment.



The staff who work at the air ambulance service are from a service called the **Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service**.

This is called **EMRTS** for short.



The EMRTS are doctors, nurses and paramedics. These are staff who have been trained to help in very serious emergencies and save lives.



This means the Charity and the NHS have to work together to make sure the service runs in the best way.

What we are doing

We are the **Emergency Ambulance Services Committee**. We write this as **EASC** for short.

We are a **committee** of all health boards in Wales. A **committee** is a group of people who runs things and makes decisions.



We work to plan and support emergency ambulances, cars and helicopters for people in Wales.



We have done a lot of work looking at the air ambulance service and how to make it better.



We have spoken to lots of people and organisations about the service.



We want the service to:

- give more patients across Wales emergency help when and where they need it



- make better use of the medical teams so they can help patients in more areas of Wales



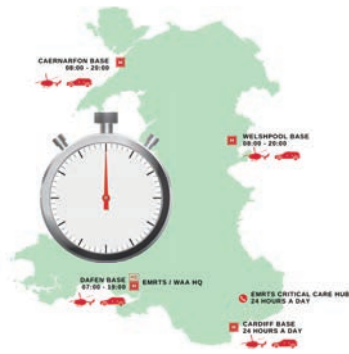
- make more use of the cars. This might be when the weather is bad or when the helicopters cannot fly



- run in the best way possible



- make the best use of their money



To start with, we looked at how our teams work now. We looked at which bases they work from and what times they work.



We looked at all of the ideas people and organisations told us about.



We can't make all of the ideas happen.



We looked at the top 6 ideas to see which would work best. We think there are 2 ideas that would work the best.



We want to know what you think about these ideas.

Making sure our ideas work for everyone



It is really important to think about how our ideas will affect everyone in Wales.



We want to look at how different groups of people might be affected by the ideas.



We will make sure that no groups of people are being treated more unfairly by the ideas.

How the air ambulance service works now

There are a mix of people who work in the air ambulance teams:



- consultant doctors. These are doctors who know a lot about health problems



- other staff who are trained to give emergency care



The teams can use a helicopter or a car to get to emergencies.



x4

At the moment, we have 4 air ambulance teams at different bases spread out across Wales.

The teams are based at:

- Caernarfon
- Welshpool
- Dafen in Llanelli
- Cardiff



Open



In the daytime, all of these bases are open.



At night, only the base at Cardiff is open.



Teams from any of the bases can go to emergencies in any part of Wales.

Welshpool Caernarfon



Idea 1

We will put the Welshpool and Caernarfon teams together to make 1 big team.

Closed

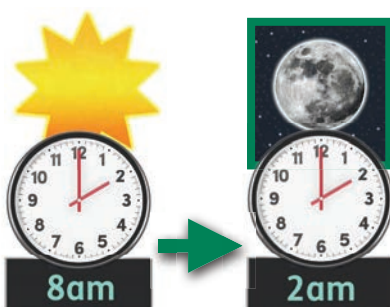
We will close the bases at Welshpool and Caernarfon.



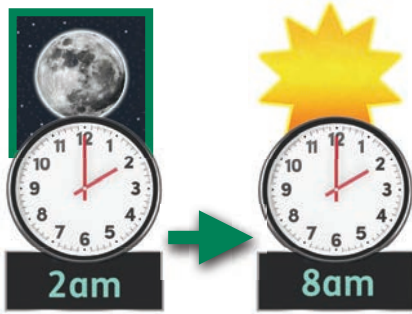
The big team will work from a new base in North Wales. It will be near the A55 which is a big road.



This means we will have 3 bases instead of 4.



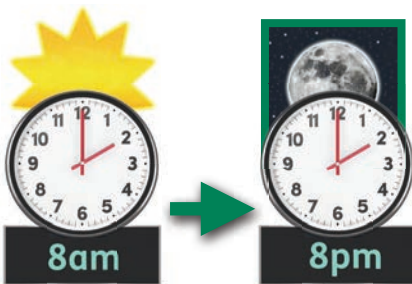
The new base will be open from 8am in the morning until 2am the next morning.



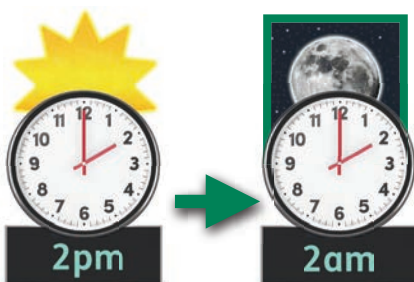
It will be closed from 2am to 8am.



We will split the new big team at the base into 2 teams. The teams will work at these times:



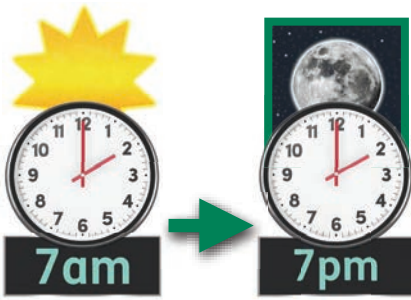
Team 1 will work from 8am to 8pm



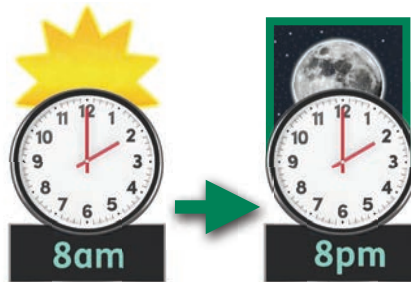
Team 2 will work from 2pm to 2am.



We will still have bases at Dafen in Llanelli and Cardiff.



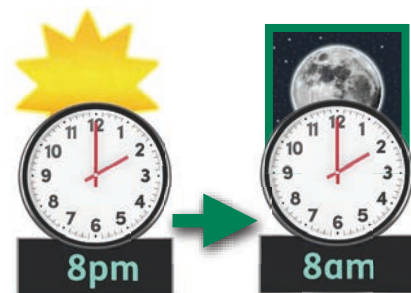
At the Dafen base, the team will work from 7am to 7pm.



At the Cardiff base, 1 team will work in the daytime from 8am to 8pm.



The Cardiff team will not have a consultant doctor.



Another team will work at the Cardiff base at night from 8pm to 8am.



This team will have a consultant doctor.



Good things about idea 1:

- the teams will be able to help more patients



- the teams will be able to get to more places in Wales more easily



- there will be more staff working at night



- we will be using the teams in the best way

Not so good things about idea 1:



- there will be less staff working in the daytime



- we will use the staff, helicopters and cars that we have now. We will not add anything new to the service



- it might be harder for the cars to get to every part of Wales



- staff might not like the new changes. They might not want to move to the new base or work at night

How much idea 1 will cost



This idea will cost more money. This is for:



- running the service and buying equipment



- moving to a new base



- helping more people

Extra things we can do for idea 1



We know people have some worries about changing our service.



We can do some extra things for idea 1 to help answer some of the worries.



We could have extra cars in some places like the countryside or seaside areas.



This would mean:

- we can get to more people in the countryside and at the seaside



- staff might not need to move to the new base. They could work in areas closer to their homes



- we would be making our service better

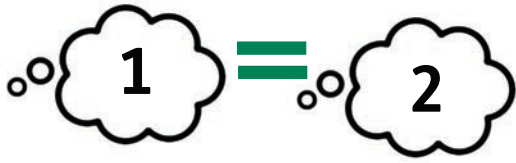


Adding these things to idea 1 will not cost any more money.



We would pay for the extra cars out of the money we already have.

Idea 2



Idea 2 is very similar to idea 1.

Welshpool Caernarfon



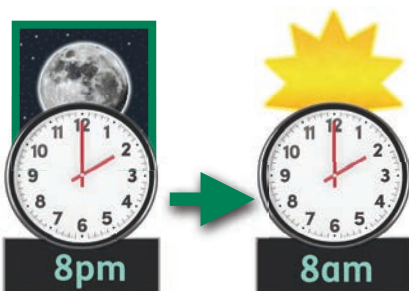
We will close 2 bases at Welshpool and Caernarfon and make a new base in North Wales. It will be near the A55 which is a big road.



We will still have bases at Dafen in Llanelli and Cardiff.



In this idea, we will also have an extra team working in a car. This team will have a base in the Wrexham area.



The extra team will work at night from 8pm to 8am in the morning.



The team will only use a car to get to patients in an emergency.

Good things about idea 2:



- the teams will be able to help more patients



- the teams will be able to get to more places in Wales more easily



- there will be more staff working over a whole day

Not so good things about idea 2:



- there will be less staff working in the daytime



- it might be harder for the cars to get to every part of Wales



- staff might not like the new changes. They might not want to move to the new base or work at night



- it does not use our staff or cars in the best way



- we might not have enough staff to work at all of the times we are open

How much idea 2 will cost

This idea will cost a lot more money than idea 1. This is for:



- running the service and buying equipment



- moving to a new base



- helping more patients



- the extra car and base



The Wales Air Ambulance Charity says they will support ideas that make the service better.



NHS Wales has looked at both of our ideas. They liked idea 1 best.



Tell us what you think

We want to know what you think about our ideas.



Please answer the questions in our questionnaire



You can find the questionnaire on our website:

<https://easc.nhs.wales/engagement/sdp/p2ep1/eruk-screen-questionnaire-easy-read/>