

Appendix 1 - THE WELSH NHS – Some things you might want to know.

We operate the Welsh NHS with the guiding principles of ensuring a planned and integrated health service. This approach remains true to Bevan's founding principles, and stands in stark contrast to the model developing in England after the passing of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

As the outgoing Chief Executive of NHS Wales reported in March 2014 *"I continue to believe our NHS system is distinctively right for the challenges and opportunities we face in Wales. The existence of large integrated organisations able to focus on population health, care pathways and new models of care is clearly a strength. Our health Boards are able to integrate planning with delivery and above all, to focus on prevention, outcomes and patient experience in a stable, supportive system"*. (Western Mail 29th March 2014)

Comparing England and Wales

In general terms the attempt to compare England and Wales is misleading, given the demographic, economic, rural/urban differences between the two countries; Wales has the highest proportion of people over 85 in the UK and as a result there is bigger demand for emergency care services and elective surgery.

Conservative MP for the Vale of Glamorgan Alun Cairns recently said: "it is unfortunate that the NHS is all too often used as a political football... It is important to emphasise the fact that the vast majority of patients receive an excellent service from the NHS".

Alun Cairns is right: positives about the NHS in Wales

- Nursing staff in post have increased in Wales every year since 1999.
- Community nursing numbers are increasing in Wales but falling in England.
- Cancer patients receive faster treatment in Wales.
- Cancer survival is increasing faster than in any part of the UK.
- Palliative care services in Wales rated excellent by families.
- NHS beds are being cut in England at a faster rate than in Wales.
- Seeing a dentist is more expensive in England than in Wales.
- Prescription charges – a tax on the sick in England—free in Wales.
- Wales is at the forefront of the global search for a cure for cancer.
- More children are protected against killer diseases in Wales.
- Delayed transfers of care have fallen to a 10-year low in Wales.
- Wales has a maximum charge for homecare and other non-residential social services.
- Patients needing specialist mental healthcare are guaranteed the right to a care and treatment plan.
- National standards for advanced practice roles and non medical consultant roles.
- Since 2008 the innovative 1,000 Lives campaign putting patient safety at the heart of the

Welsh NHS.

- Wales is the only UK country to adopt a single system for the clinical review of all case notes of patients who die in hospital.
- Over 100 silver level projects have been started by staff delivering tangible improvements to patient outcomes.

Progress Since Devolution

- Infant mortality has fallen from 6.4 deaths per 1,000 in children under one in 1999 to 4.1 per 1,000 in 2012.
- Life expectancy has increased for both men and women since devolution. In 1997-99 the average life expectancy for men in Wales was 74.31 years and 79.36 for women. By 2010-12, average expectancy for men in Wales had increased to 78.2 years and 82.22 years for women.
- One year survival rates for cancer have increased faster in Wales than in any other part of the UK, rising from 60.24% for 1995-99 to 68%.
- Five year survival rates are also increasing from 44.61% in 1995-99 to 51.43% in 2001-2005 (latest figures available).
- The average length of time patients spend in hospital has fallen by more than half a day in the 13 years since devolution—in 1999 the average length of stay for patients was 8.3 days; in 2011-12 it was 7.2 days.
- Spending on cancer per person in Wales has risen by 51% in the decade between 2003 and 2013, increasing from £77 per head to £116.

Number of Frontline Staff

- The number of qualified nurses (full time equivalent) employed in Wales has risen by more than 4,000 from 14,761 in 1999 to 18,942 in 2012.
- In Wales, there are over 60 nurses per 10,000 people, whereas in England there are just 50
- There are more than 1,000 more consultants working in Wales now than there were in 1999. In 1999, there were 1262 consultants employed in Wales (full time equivalent); in 2012 there were 2,279—an increase of 81%.
- There has been a 13% increase in the number of GPs working in Wales between 1999 and 2013. In 1999 there were 1,792 working in Wales; in 2013 there were 2,026 (headcount).

Coalition Spending Cuts

Progress has been delivered despite the significant cuts made by the UK Coalition Government to the Welsh budget. By 2015/16, our budget will be 10% lower than when the current UK Government came to office in 2010.

Integrated Care

People in Wales are living longer and healthier lives. Wales has the highest rate of growth for those aged 85 years and over of the UK countries—by 2030 people aged 85 will jump by 90% to 85,000. This will drive a changing pattern of demand for services.

It is known that frailty, dementia and the effects of multiple chronic conditions are more prevalent in this population group. We are focussed on person-centred health services provided as close to home as possible.

We know that only an end to fragmented care can help overcome the confusion and frustration that can happen for recipients and providers.

Safe Care, Compassionate care

The Conservatives frequently, mistakenly, say that the Welsh Government is refusing to learn from the terrible events that occurred in Mid Staffordshire. In fact, we published our own report *Delivering Safe Care, Compassionate Care* as a direct response. We also made an additional £10million available for the recruitment of additional nurses – even as nurse numbers in England were being cut, contrary to recommendations made by Francis.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/reports/safecare/?lang=en>

What people are telling us about healthcare in Wales

Patient experiences are measured in National Survey Wales. Of those surveyed 78% had seen a GP about their health in the previous 12 months. Of those, 92% were satisfied with their care they received at the GP surgery. Similarly 42% of people surveyed had attended a hospital appointment in the last 12 months. Of these 90% were satisfied with the care they received.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve the Welsh NHS the Welsh Government launched ***My Local Health Service*** which publishes various measures showing the quality of NHS services all over Wales. The information is provided where possible with comparisons to be made between regions and organisations across Wales. It is a clear sign of our open and honest approach to improving the Welsh NHS.

Macmillan Cancer Support worked with Welsh Government to produce a groundbreaking cancer patient survey, this showed 9 in 10 rate care as excellent or very good.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/groundbreaking-cancer-patient-survey-shows-6595280>