

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL RETRIEVAL AND TRANSFER SERVICE
WALES AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY**

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL BRIEFING

**ISSUE
1**

Current position as at 14 October 2022

The purpose of this briefing is to let all stakeholders know the current position in the work to review the service development proposal developed by the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS Cymru) and the Wales Air Ambulance Charity (WAAC). We will prepare further briefings as necessary.

At the meeting held on 6 September 2022, the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee, a joint committee of all health boards in Wales, (EASC) received a presentation which included a potential service development from EMRTS Cymru working in partnership with the WAAC, the presentation is available [here](#):

EMRTS Cymru has a history of service development and expansion since it was commissioned by EASC to provide an all Wales service in partnership with the WAAC. EMRTS Cymru aims to:

- provide advanced decision-making and critical care for life or limb-threatening emergencies that require transfer for time-critical treatment at an appropriate facility.

EMRTS Cymru prides itself in developing evidence based services using data routinely collected from missions and undertaking ongoing service analysis to meet the evolving requirements of the commissioners. An independent service evaluation by Swansea University (2015-2020) of EMRTS Cymru was also received in early 2022 and this, combined with the ongoing internal service analysis, led to independent experts (CSAM Optima Predict) being appointed to utilise modelling to ensure that the best use was being made of all resources.

The key headlines emerging from the ongoing work (service analysis and modelling) included:

- an opportunity to optimise the resources (aircraft, road vehicles, staff and bases) with a view to bringing the greatest benefit to the population of Wales which, according to the modelling, could lead to:
 - attending an additional 583 patients every year (average)
 - achieving 88% of the total demand compared with the existing model that meets 72% (with no additional spend)
- under-utilisation within the current service (down time)
- unmet need (patients who did not receive an EMRTS Cymru service).



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Services Committee

The detailed internal service analysis and independent expert modelling indicated the opportunity to enhance day-time provision with extended after-dark capability, as well as changes to base locations. In line with their close partnership working arrangements, EMRTS Cymru shared the ongoing work with the WAAC and initial discussions were started during the summer months with EMRTS Cymru and WAAC staff and other key stakeholders.

As a result of the discussions, concerns were raised by the communities of Welshpool and more recently Caernarfon regarding the impact on their air bases which are highly valued. People have also said that they are worried that this would adversely effect rural areas and lead to longer waiting times.

The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner (CASC) has been tasked by EASC to lead an independent structured approach in developing a clear plan, identifying the governance and working with the All Wales Community Health Council (CHC) to clarify what would be required as a result of the proposed service development. The work will include communicating widely with stakeholders including holding face to face meetings where required to ensure all views are considered in the decision-making process and to ensure that key issues are understood prior to the final decision being made in early 2023.

Key facts:

- No decision has yet been made
- Opportunity to attend an additional 583 patients per annum with a life or limb threatening emergency in Wales
- The CASC leading the work
- A decision on the process required will be decided upon by the All Wales CHC
- The service development proposal will be presented to the EASC on 8 November 2022 for initial discussion
- EASC are likely to make a decision on the service development proposal in early 2023
- Communities have raised concerns about the potential closure of the current air bases in Welshpool and Caernarfon.

Key timelines:

- All Wales CHC meeting 20 October 2022 (to decide on process required)
- EMRTS Delivery Assurance Group 1 November 2022 (subgroup of the EASC)
- EASC to receive service development proposal 8 November 2022
- Final decision by EASC in early 2023.

How can you find out more?



Prof. David Lockey
National Director
Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service

Professor David Lockey, National Director EMRTS Cymru gives a short video overview of the proposals, click [here](#) to view

We have a website available where you can keep up to date with the latest information. You can also pose a question or comment on the proposals and view the frequently asked questions (FAQs) by [clicking here](#).

Other helpful links

WAAC Website, [click here](#)
WAAC Service Analysis, [click here](#)
WAAC FAQs, [click here](#)
EMRTS Cymru Website: [click here](#)