

A Review of Welsh Ambulance Services

Terms of Reference

1. Background

- 1.1 On 7 November 2012 I announced my intention to commission a comprehensive review of the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST). This review will make recommendations to enable high quality, sustainable ambulance services.

2. Current position

- 2.1 The Welsh Ambulance Services Trust provides a national service for both emergency responses and non-emergency patient transport, and is responsible for the services provided by NHS Direct Wales.
- 2.2 The Trust is funded by Local Health Boards (LHBs) via the Welsh Health Specialised Service Committee (WHSSC) who agree service requirements for LHB areas. It is formally accountable for the delivery of services to the Welsh Government.

3. Areas of Focus within the Review

3.1 Relationships with Local Health Boards

The review will appraise the current arrangements whereby Health Boards, through WHSSC, provide funding to WAST to ensure Welsh Government standards and targets are met. The effectiveness of these arrangements will be assessed as will possible alternative funding models.

3.2 Organisational Structure

The review will appraise the current arrangements – an all Wales organisation providing all aspects of Ambulance Services and NHS Direct Wales. It will consider and assess alternative structural models. These options will take account of a number of factors including:

- Geography;
- Relationship between emergency and non-emergency services;
- Position of NHS Direct Wales; and
- Relationship with relevant NHS services provided by NHS Health Boards.

3.3 Performance

It is assumed the Trust will continue to be accountable to the Welsh Government for its performance. The review will appraise the current standards and targets which apply to the Ambulance Service and consider options for improvement.

4. Process

4.1 The Review will:

Consider relevant previous external and internal reviews of the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust;
Engage extensively with WAST staff;
Engage with LHBs;
Engage with relevant stakeholders; and
Take account of relevant good practice in other health systems

5. Timeframes

5.1 It is intended the initial report will be completed within ten weeks and start in January 2013.

6. Chair Person

6.1 The review will be Chaired by Professor Siobhan McClelland. Professor McClelland is a respected academic with a strong interest in health matters in Wales.

7. Welsh Government Role

7.1 Welsh Government officials will facilitate and support Professor McClelland during the course of the review by:

Providing supporting materials and background information;
Providing contact details for stakeholders to be contacted during the scoping phase;
Organising meetings as appropriate; and
Organising the presentation of the results to the Minister, Welsh Government officials and key stakeholders;

7.2 Full details will be agreed with Professor McClelland prior to the beginning of the review.

8. Outputs

8.1 The Report will be provided to the Minister for Health and Social Services and will make recommendations relating to the areas of focus in 3 above.