

Swansea Bay University Health Board

October 2024

Swansea Bay University Health Board Wales serving around 383,000 people and employs just under 12,500 people.

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Maternity and Neonatal Services

- Midwifery leadership has been strengthened with successful appointments to the Director of Midwifery and the Head of Midwifery post.
- The health board reopened the midwife-led birth centre at Neath Port Talbot Hospital on Monday 16 September, and reintroduced their home birth service from Monday 21 October 2024. The health board has invested £750,000 and recruited 35 hospital-based and community staff to support the reopening both services, offering families a wider choice of how and where to have their babies.
- The newly reopened birth centre at Neath Port Talbot hospital welcomed their first baby within 24 hours of opening, describing the experience as being supportive and calm.
- A new team has been set up in Swansea Bay to help expectant and new mums quit smoking. The Welsh Government funded pilot scheme will see three new Help Me Quit practitioners work alongside clinicians and midwives in Singleton and Neath Port Talbot hospitals' maternity departments.
- Swansea Bay staff are receiving specialist training to help families who have experienced a pregnancy loss after patient feedback highlighted a need for additional emotional and practical support.

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Issues or concerns

Maternity and neonatal

- Maternity and neonatal services were escalated to enhanced monitoring by Welsh Government in January following a number of concerns about the service.
- The health board has commissioned an independent review to assess the quality and safety of its maternity and neonatal services
- Concerns have been raised by a number of individuals and organisations about the review process including the engagement with families.

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