



EMERGENCY MEDICAL RETRIEVAL AND TRANSFER SERVICE
WALES AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

SERVICE REVIEW
BRIEFING

ISSUE
3

Update position as at 14 December 2022

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an overview of the work undertaken by the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner and Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) Team to date to meet the requirements and challenges raised by EASC Members at the meeting on 8 November and generally by stakeholders on the service development proposal.

The EASC Team has started the process of undertaking the analysis afresh – the **Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service Review** (Update report available here: Agenda item 2.2)

<https://easc.nhs.wales/the-committee/meetings-and-papers/december-2022/>

At the EASC meeting on 6 December, Members agreed that the key areas for scrutiny were:

1. **Providing EMRTS to the population of Wales (population coverage)**
2. **Rapid Response Vehicles (RRV)**(How these vehicles should best be used)
3. **Utilisation** (using what we have in an effective way)

Utilisation is a measure how active a given resource is during the time it is available. For the purposes of providing an emergency response, utilisation is a balance between availability of resources against the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery:

- Too low utilisation and the service becomes inefficient, costly and potentially disengages staff
- Too high utilisation and the services becomes ineffective by not being available when patients need it.

4. **Unmet need**

An essential aspect of the EMRTS is to have resource available when patients require them, and to minimise any occasion where an EMRTS resource is not available for a patient who could benefit from the service they provide.

EASC Members agreed to explore and maximise the additional activity that could be achieved from existing bases. They also asked to explore how options to reconfigure the service could increase the number of patients receiving a service from EMRTS (reducing unmet need).



Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau
Ambiwlans Brys
Emergency Ambulance
Services Committee

The formal public engagement process will be in two parts:

Part 1 will:

- Describe how EMRTS works now
- Discuss what must be in place and what are the must haves (constraints)
- Discuss how we measure the benefits and risks of each option (investment objectives)
- Discuss how the process reflects that some benefits are most important than others (weightings)

Review after six weeks to consider the process to date; discussions, agree the constraints, investment objectives and weightings to inform further areas for modelling.

Part 2 will:

- Present options including benefits and risks.

Key facts:

- **No decision has yet been made**
- Communities have raised concerns about the potential closure of the current air bases in Welshpool and Caernarfon
- Members of the public have been raising concerns and asking questions using the EASC Website <https://easc.nhs.wales/commissioning/emrts/sdp/>
- Formal public engagement will confirm the current baseline position, will inform the development of boundaries or limits to be used and options that will then be modelled. This will ensure that the benefits or otherwise of each option are clearly set out and weighed up as part of an open, transparent and robust process.

Next steps:

- EASC Team to continue to work with experts in health boards and Community Health Councils to produce engagement materials for the work including timelines
- Expect to start formal engagement when the engagement materials are agreed but this will not be before 9 January 2023
- Final decision by EASC expected in 2023 following a period of public engagement that will last no less than 8 weeks (with a review at 6 weeks).

How can you find out more?

We have a website available where you can keep up to date with the latest information.

Website:

<https://easc.nhs.wales/commissioning/emrts/sdp/>

Other helpful links

WAAC Website, [click here](#)

WAAC Service Analysis, [click here](#)

WAAC FAQs, [click here](#)

EMRTS Cymru Website: [click here](#)

You can also pose a question or comment on the proposals and view the frequently asked questions (FAQs) by [clicking here](#).