



# How health services work in Wales

## What's this fact sheet for?

It's important for you to make your voice heard when it comes to health services. Whether the feedback is positive or negative, things only change for the better if you get involved. But to make it count, it helps to know how the system works and where decisions get made. This is a quick overview to help make sense of it all (See Figure 1).

## The Department for Health and Social Services

These are the people ultimately in charge, overseeing health and social care delivery, policy and strategy. They also take responsibility for the funding of NHS Wales.



## National Advisory Board & National Delivery Group

These both play supporting roles to the Department for Health and Social Services. The Advisory Board provides independent advice to the Minister to help meet performance targets for the NHS in Wales. The Delivery Group oversees the development and delivery of NHS services, although the day-to-day delivery is carried out by the seven Local Health Boards and three NHS Trusts.

## Local Health Boards

There are seven of these in Wales. Each takes responsibility for planning, designing, developing and delivering:

- Primary care services
- Community care services
- Secondary care services
- Specialist and tertiary (highly specialised) care services

The seven Local Health Boards are:

- Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
- Hywel Dda Health Board
- Cwm Taf Health Board
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Powys Teaching Health Board

## NHS Trusts

As well as the seven Local Health Boards, there are three specific NHS Trusts that work across Wales and provide services that go beyond the expertise of the Local Health Boards. These are:

- Welsh Ambulance Services Trust
- Velindre NHS Trust: offering specialist services in cancer care and a range of national support services
- Public Health Wales

**Figure 1. How health services work in Wales**

