



British Heart
Foundation
Cymru

BHF Cymru Manifesto Briefing:

A New Heart and Circulatory Disease Plan for Wales

2021 Manifesto Ask: Parties to commit to a bold heart and circulatory disease plan and promise to provide sufficient dedicated resources to deliver on clear and effective actions.

Summary

Heart and circulatory diseases remain a significant cause of ill health and death in Wales. They cause more than 1 in 4 deaths and there are around 340,000 people in Wales living with these conditions¹.

The [*2017 Heart Conditions Delivery Plan*](#) had a vital focus on heart and circulatory diseases and this plan is due to come to an end in 2021. At present there is no commitment to a new plan and there is still more to be done. We want to see this work continued past 2021 in a new, ambitious and disease specific plan.

We know that the NHS structure in Wales might be facing change over the coming years. But disease specific plans need to be integrated as a vital part of the new structure. We need to ensure that heart and circulatory diseases, as one of Wales's biggest killers remains a top priority. For more about anything in this briefing information contact Gemma Roberts, Policy and Public Affairs Manager on robertsge@bhf.org.uk.



The New NHS Wales Structure

We understand that at present, there are no firm plans on what the new NHS structures will look like. At BHF Cymru, we are entirely supportive of the creation of a new NHS Executive to facilitate cross boundary local health board working and drive service improvement. However, in order for the executive to be fully effective in improving care for people at risk of or who have heart disease the new structure must ensure:

- 1) **Heart disease remains a priority and a diseases specific plan makes up an integral part of the new structure;**
- 2) **The governance structures are robust and provide adequate accountability; and**
- 3) **Plans are developed in partnership with clinicians, patients and the third sector.**

A New Heart and Circulatory Disease Plan for Wales

Our team at BHF Cymru carried out extensive research and worked closely with clinicians, patients and the public to produce a [*New Heart and Circulatory Disease Plan for Wales*](#). This plan identifies three priorities to improve heart and circulatory disease care in Wales:

- 1) **To greatly improve detection and support people to manage conditions such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol which often precede heart and circulatory diseases.**
- 2) **At present there is a lot of variation in care across Wales. The next Welsh Government must ensure easy and equitable access to All Wales Cardiac Pathways, which provide patients across Wales with the best possible care from diagnosis and treatment, to recovery and support services. And end of life care if needed.**
- 3) **Any improvements in care can only be underpinned by data. Wales needs better collection, dissemination and use of data. This must be used on a local and national level to highlight unwarranted variation in treatment and really drive improvement for patients.**

Given the extent of the engagement, the Plan that BHF Cymru has produced, and the priorities it puts forward represent the consensus of everyone interested in improving care for patients with heart and circulatory diseases and would fit well under any NHS structure which prioritises Wales' biggest killers.

Action: Call on political parties to commit to a bold heart and circulatory disease plan and promise to provide sufficient dedicated resources to deliver on clear and effective actions.

