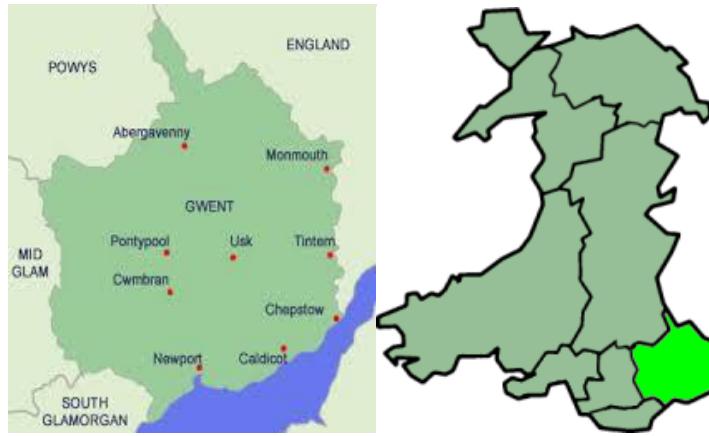


Developing Multi-Centre Schwartz rounds in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board serves a population of 600,000 in the South Eastern corner of Wales. It serves some of the most socio-economically deprived areas of the UK and has a wide geographical spread including both urban centres and rural areas. The county of Gwent has three District General Hospitals, one in the North of the county in Abergavenny, one in the North West in Caerphilly and one in Newport as well as a further 9 community hospitals.



A small, multi-disciplinary group of staff, keen to introduce Schwartz rounds to the organisation started to meet to plan how we could effectively implement Schwartz given the challenges posed by our geography. We implemented the following innovations:

1. Ensuring that we have a larger pool of trained Schwartz clinical leads/facilitators

As an organisation we committed to training 8 clinical leads and facilitators. This has enabled us to have greater flexibility in relation to our time and the location of rounds. It has also meant that the more labour intensive aspects of panellist seeking and preparation have been spread amongst a wider group of staff, making the work more sustainable in the longer term. This group form the core of a larger steering group.

2. Running the rounds in different sites across Gwent

We have currently run rounds in our two main DGH sites and have plans to rotate to our community hospitals over the coming year.

3. Schwartz outreach to internal conferences

Our health board runs conferences for particular groups of staff to share best practice and provide continuing professional development. We delivered a Schwartz round at the Healthcare Support worker conference, and at the Therapies and Health Sciences conferences, drawing panellists from each of these areas. Each round evaluated well and helped to promote knowledge and understanding of Schwartz, making it more likely that community staff would attend future hospital based rounds. Delivering a round in a conference setting required adaptations based on venue and audience size including the use of microphone runners, all of which impacted on facilitation.

4. Incorporating teaching about Schwartz on internal training courses

An internal training course for leaders, developed to promote the conditions that support compassionate care, includes knowledge and understanding of Schwartz on its curriculum. This helps to support leaders in the organisation both participating in and supporting staff engagement with the rounds. The round has also been delivered as part of Continuing Professional Development for Psychological Therapists. It was striking that it had value even in a group more accustomed to reflecting on the emotional aspects of their work.

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