**Response to ‘A Major Trauma Network for South and West Wales and South Powys: Consultation document’**

***Your postcode*** CF11 9SD

***Are you replying on behalf of an organisation?*** Yes

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) in conjunction with the Association of Trauma & Orthopaedic Chartered Physiotherapists (ATOCP)

***What is your age range?*** Prefer not to say

***Interests to be declared*** None

**Consultation questions:**

***1. Do you agree or disagree that a major trauma network should be established for South & West Wales & South Powys?*** Agree

***Please give us reasons for your choice***

Evidence from research & practice suggests that survival, recovery & long-term outcomes for people who suffer major trauma are better if they can access the right level of care, in the right place at the right time. The major trauma network proposed by the consultation has potential to:

* Recognise & build on existing good practice
* Formalise & develop the relationships between the teams & services that contribute to the outcomes delivered along the major trauma care pathway - from the initial triage at the site of injury & admission to hospital through to the various phases of rehabilitation, resettlement & advice
* Ensure that all staff & carers contributing to the major trauma care pathway are supported to maintain & develop competencies & have access to the resources they need to deliver consistently high quality care
* Create a community of practice that can support the ongoing development of the existing trauma workforce, offer quality practice-based learning opportunities to develop the trauma workforce of the future, & produce high quality research outputs that address questions arising from practice in this area.

***2. Do you agree or disagree that the development of the major trauma network for South & West Wales & South Powys should be based on the recommendations from the independent panel?*** Agree

***Please give us reasons for your choice***

Given the potential impact of establishing a major trauma network for organisations operating within the geographical boundaries of South & West Wales & South Powys (e.g. shifts in resource allocation, clinical priorities, workforce planning & development) it was right that recommendations were developed by an independent panel.

***3. If we develop a major trauma network for South & West Wales & South Powys, is there anything else we should consider?***

We note that the proposal acknowledges the additional budget required to establish & maintain a major trauma network & the work required to negotiate release of funding from Health Boards; & to align plans to develop the network with Health Board’s IMTPs. While we support the recommendation to develop a major trauma network in principle, there are a number of issues that will need addressing to ensure that the benefits outlined in the proposal are realised:

* Need for a thorough evaluation of workforce requirements (including skill mix, staffing levels & analysis of workflows) of the new service that includes all staff who contribute to the effectiveness & productivity of major trauma care – including those working in the major trauma centre, trauma units & rehabilitation services. This evaluation will need to take account of the specific needs of the population using the service, & the peaks, troughs & flows of activity associated with major trauma so that staffing & resources are adequate to meet the demands of the ‘new’ service without compromising delivery of care in other related areas.
* Embedding capacity for staff to engage in research & development, practice-based learning, & service evaluation & development activity as part of the service redesign. This will ensure that staff are enabled to meet professional & service standards, & that the network can become the recognised hub of expertise outlined in the consultation.
* Ensuring that there is capacity within the system to build & sustain relationships & infrastructures (e.g. policies, processes & practices) that support integration of all the services that contribute to the major trauma care pathway – including services that fall under the auspices of Local Authorities & 3rd sector organisations. This is vital to ensure that services are co-ordinated to optimise the benefits of early specialised intervention, & that patients can continue to access the services & support they need at the right time & in the right place.
* Investment of time/resources to build & sustain relationships between Health Boards to ensure that processes are in place to ensure the smooth transition of patient care from the initial triage at the site of injury & admission to hospital through to the various phases of rehabilitation, resettlement & advice
* Investment of time/resources to build on relationships with major trauma networks in England to support staff development & sharing of best practice, & to develop robust repatriation processes to ensure continuity of care for patients needing to transition from South & West Wales & South Powys to England (& vice versa).
* Establishing clear outcomes & processes to engage staff, service users & other stakeholders in evaluation of the implementation & ongoing development of the major trauma network.
* Given the geographical spread of the network, consideration should be given to Welsh language provision in line with the expectations of the Welsh Language Act

***4. Do you have any other comments?***

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) is the professional, educational & trade union body for the UK’s 57,000 chartered physiotherapists, physiotherapy students & support workers. The CSP represents over 2,300 members in Wales. The CSP is pleased to provide a response to the current consultation on a proposal to establish a major trauma network for South & West Wales & South Powys.

Our response has been developed in conjunction with the Association of Trauma & Orthopaedic Chartered Physiotherapists (ATOCP). ATOCP is a UK-wide professional network whose members take a lead role in supporting the development of physiotherapy practice in trauma & orthopaedics.

Physiotherapy is a healthcare profession that works with people to identify & maximise their ability to move & function. Physiotherapy delivers high quality, innovative services in accessible, responsive & timely ways. It is founded on an increasingly strong evidence base, an evolving scope of practice, clinical leadership & person-centered professionalism. As an adaptable, engaged workforce with a focus on quality & productivity, physiotherapy puts meeting patient & population needs, optimising clinical outcomes & the patient experience at the centre of all it does.

Physiotherapists are autonomous problem-solving practitioners who use manual therapy, therapeutic exercise, electrotherapy & other physical approaches to restore, maintain & improve movement & activity. Physiotherapists work in a variety of settings (including in acute hospitals, specialist units & in people’s homes, workplaces & other community-based settings).

As such the contribution of the physiotherapy workforce is evident at each phase of the major trauma care pathway. It plays a key role as part of the multidisciplinary team working with patients from the initial assessment & hyper-acute phases through to the final phases of rehabilitation & return to an active life.

The profession looks forward to seeing the outcome of the consultation exercise & to further involvement in shaping the design, development, delivery & evaluation of the major trauma network for South & West Wales & South Powys.