

EITEM AGENDA / AGENDA ITEM: 3**Cyd-bwyllgor Canolbarth Cymru ar gyfer Iechyd a Gofal /
Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care**

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod: Date of Meeting:	25 th April 2023		
Eitem ar yr Agenda: Title of Report:	Report of the Lead Chair		
Arweinydd: Lead:	Maria Battle, Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board and Interim Lead Chair for the Mid Wales Joint Committee (MWJC)		
Pwrpas yr adroddiad: Purpose of the Report:	To receive a written update from the MWJC Lead Chair regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant matters undertaken as Lead Chair • Provide an overview of the current key items of relevance to the MWJC. 	Ar gyfer cytundeb For Agreement	
		Ar gyfer trafodaeth For Discussion	
		Ar gyfer gwybodaeth For Information	✓

Crynodeb / Summary

This report provides the opportunity to present items to the Mid Wales Joint Committee in order to demonstrate areas of work that are being progressed and achievements that are being made, which may not be directly reported to the Joint Committee through the other reports presented to its meetings. This report is intended to ensure that the Mid Wales Joint Committee are kept up to date on work undertaken, both nationally and regionally, and provides an opportunity to highlight areas which can be brought back to future meetings of the Joint Committee.

1. National developments**Quality and Engagement Act**

The Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 commenced on 1st April 2023 and with it the duty of candour, the duty of quality and the new organisation Llais (Citizens Voice Body).

The duties of quality and candour will support the ongoing, system-wide approach to quality improvement within the NHS and further embed a culture of openness and transparency. The establishment of Llais, which replaces Community Health Councils, will strengthen the representation of people in services and empower people to influence and shape their local health and social care services.

Collectively, the measures within the Act are aimed to help to move forward towards the integration and sustainability aspirations set out in 'A Healthier Wales' putting quality and safety at the heart of everything the NHS does, driving improvements in health and social care, empowering people to contribute to the ongoing improvement of health and care and ultimately, leading to better outcomes for all.

Members will note that representatives of the three Community Health Councils covering the Mid Wales region were co-opted members of this Joint Committee. I will be writing to the Chair of Llais to ask him to confirm the name of its nominated representative who will be a co-opted member of the Joint Committee.

NHS Executive

The establishment of the NHS Wales Executive came into force on 1st April 2023. The NHS Executive brings together a number of existing national NHS organisations – the NHS Wales Health Collaborative, Delivery Unit, Financial Delivery Unit and Improvement Cymru. They will operate as a dedicated senior leadership team and will align with the proposed National Office for Care and Support, to reflect the health and social care integration agenda.

Ministers will continue to set priorities, targets, and outcome measures for the NHS in the form of the NHS Planning Framework. This will be translated by the Director General for Health and Social Services/Chief Executive of NHS Wales into a mandate to the NHS Executive, setting out its role, ways of working and functions. Its core functions will include:

- Quality, safety and improvement, including reinforcing and refocusing national leadership for quality improvement, patient safety and transformation.
- Planning, including developing national and regional planning capability and support for national decision making alongside regional and local delivery.
- Oversight and assurance, including enabling stronger performance management arrangements, financial control, and capacity to challenge and support organisations that are not operating as expected.

Plans are being developed to scope the requirements for the delivery of further functions within the NHS Executive during 2023-24, including innovation and value, workforce planning and emergency planning. The functions of the NHS Executive will be underpinned by the clinical networks and national programmes as key mechanisms to support improvement, change and delivery.

National Workforce Implementation Plan for NHS Wales

In February 2023, the National Workforce Implementation Plan for NHS Wales was published. The plan will build on the work that is underway as part of 'A Healthier Wales: Our Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care Workforce' commissioned by Welsh Government from Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), in partnership with Social Care Wales, which was published in 2020.

The plan outlines a series of immediate practical actions to address some of the key issues faced by NHS services, which includes:

- Investment in education and training, retention and wellbeing which will be under pinned by the ambition to ethically recruit more nurses from overseas.
- Creation of an 'All-Wales Collaborative Bank' to enable the NHS to address short-term staffing issues and provide staff with choice and flexibility and enable them to achieve a better work life balance, while encouraging a move away from agency working.
- Development and deployment of new roles to better support the professional workforce.
- Deployment of reservists to support the regular workforce at times of extreme pressure, such as for the urgent roll-out of a national vaccination programme.
- Encourage more volunteers into the health and care system, adding to the existing network of volunteers who already give their time to deliver services.

The Plan will be overseen by a Strategic Workforce Implementation Board chaired by the Director General of Health and Social Care in Welsh Government and Chief Executive of NHS Wales. The Board will report to the Minister for Health and Social Services and its membership will as a minimum, comprise NHS Wales organisations (including HEIW and NHS Wales

Shared Services Partnership), Welsh Government, professional leads, Trade Unions, Third Sector and others to ensure multi professional representation.

Innovation Strategy for Wales ‘Wales innovates: creating a stronger, fairer, greener Wales’

In February 2023 the Welsh Government published a new Innovation Strategy for Wales, ‘Wales innovates: creating a stronger, fairer, greener Wales’, outlining how they will use innovation to improve the lives of people in Wales. The aim of the strategy is to create and nurture a vibrant innovation culture for a stronger, fairer, greener Wales. It seeks to use innovation to deliver impact and value for citizens in a modern Welsh economy by coordinating people, organisations such as business and academia and funding bodies to maximise outcomes and investment from Welsh, UK and international sources.

The objectives of the strategy’s vision will correspond with the Welsh Government Programme for Government and will focus on the following:

- **Education**
An education system that supports the development of innovation skills and knowledge throughout people’s lives in Wales. Schools, colleges, universities and research organisations create knowledge through research.
- **Economy**
An economy that innovates for growth, collaborates across sectors for solutions to society’s challenges, adopts new technologies for efficiency and productivity, uses resources proportionately, and allows citizens to share wealth through fair work
- **Health and Wellbeing**
A coherent innovation ecosystem where the health and social care sector collaborates with industry, academia and the third sector to deliver greater value and impact for citizens, the economy, and the environment.
- **Climate and Nature**
Optimise our natural resources for the protection and strengthening of climate and nature resilience. We will focus innovation efforts of the ecosystem towards tackling the climate and nature crises simultaneously ensuring a just transition to a wellbeing economy.

2. Regional developments

Growing Mid Wales Partnership

Growing Mid Wales is a regional partnership and engagement arrangement between the private and public sectors (Ceredigion and Powys), and with the Welsh and UK Governments. The Growing Mid Wales Partnership last met in February 2023 with the Growing Mid Wales Board meeting in March 2023.

The updated Strategic Portfolio Business Case, which is the overarching document detailing how the Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio will be delivered and meet its objectives, has been approved (<https://growingmidwales.co.uk/MidWalesGrowthDeal>). This will now be submitted to both the Welsh and UK Governments along with vital supporting documents so that they can consider issuing the first tranche of funding for the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

An employer engagement event hosted by the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) took place on 23rd March 2023 to give businesses of Mid Wales an opportunity to come together and talk about what they need for the future to meet their business goals. During the event the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025 was officially launched (<https://growingmidwales.co.uk/midwaleskillspartnership>). The Plan

identifies key sectors and skills, priorities for regional investment to support jobs and growth in the Mid Wales region and sets out the mechanism to create a more prosperous skills infrastructure for the region for the next 3 years and beyond.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has been established to support the objectives of the Levelling Up programme. From 20th March 2023, projects operating in the Local Authority areas of Ceredigion and Powys can present their outline applications for funding in a series of two open funding calls.

North Wales Medical School

The Welsh Government will be funding up to 140 medical student places a year at the new North Wales Medical School with the direct intake to commence in 2024. The establishment of a new medical school in North Wales is a key Welsh Government commitment, which will help Wales to train more medical students and ensure that training opportunities and the provision of qualified doctors are spread across Wales.

3. Mid Wales leadership roles

Changes to key leadership roles across Mid Wales since the last meeting are as follows:

- Jo Whitehead retired as Chief Executive of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in November 2022. Gill Harris is currently the Interim Chief Executive.
- Dyfed Edwards was appointed as the new Chair of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in February 2023.
- Former City and County of Swansea Council Chief Executive Jack Straw OBE took up the position of Interim Chief Executive of Powys Council on 10th April 2023 as the current Chief Executive, Dr Caroline Turner, is absent due to ill health.
- Jack Evershed's appointment as Chair of Rural Health and Care Wales ended on 31st January 2023 with Peter Skitt taking over this role. Jack has a new role as a non-executive member of Llais (Citizens Voice Body).

Also, I have recently announced that I will be retiring from my role as Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board at the end of October 2023. As such a new nomination will be needed for the role of Chair of the Mid Wales Joint Committee. Members will be aware that this role is undertaken on a rotational basis between the Chairs of the three Mid Wales Health Boards and together with the Lead Chair for the Joint Committee we will be liaising with our Chair and Chief Executive colleagues from the other Health Boards on identifying a nomination for this role.

As this will be my final Joint Committee meeting I would like to extend my thanks to members for their support during my time as Chair of the Mid Wales Joint Committee and also Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board.

4. Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group

Powys County Council have confirmed that they wish to re-engage with the Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny group.

The group is supported by the scrutiny officers for Ceredigion and Gwynedd Councils and they have confirmed that on this occasion the group will not be meeting on the afternoon following the Joint Committee meeting. This is +to allow members attending the Joint Committee meeting the opportunity to identify whether they have any matters which they wish to scrutinise. If there are any specific matters a meeting of the scrutiny group will be arranged on another date.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

For information - The Joint Committee are asked to note for information the written update from the MWJC Lead Chair regarding relevant matters undertaken as Lead Chair of the MWJC and the overview of the current key items of relevance to the MWJC.