

EITEM AGENDA / AGENDA ITEM: 2

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

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod: Date of Meeting:	29 th April 2024		
Eitem ar yr Agenda: Title of Report:	Report of the Lead Chair		
Arweinydd: Lead:	Judith Hardisty, Interim Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board		
Pwrpas yr adroddiad: Purpose of the Report:	To receive a written update from the Mid Wales Joint Committee Lead Chair on key items of relevance to the Mid Wales Joint Committee.	Ar gyfer cytundeb For Agreement	
		Ar gyfer trafodaeth For Discussion	
		Ar gyfer gwybodaeth For Information	✓

Crynodeb / Summary

Members will recall that Maria Battle was the Lead Chair of the Joint Committee until her departure as Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board at the end of October 2023. The Lead Chair role has been vacant since this time due leadership roles within Mid Wales Health Boards being held on an interim basis. It is hoped that the nominated Lead Chair will be confirmed in the next few months. In the meantime, Judith Hardisty the Interim Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board, has agreed to chair the Joint Committee's April meeting.

This report provides the opportunity to present items to the Joint Committee to demonstrate those areas of work that are being progressed and achievements that are being made, which may not be directly reported through other reports presented to the Joint Committee. This report is intended to ensure that the 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.

1. National developments

1.1 NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

An independent review of national commissioning functions has been undertaken and concluded in May 2023. The review included those functions that were discharged by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC), the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) and the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (NCCU) on behalf of local Health Boards and explored opportunities and lessons learnt to identify and deliver further improvements in commissioning.

The final report from the independent review contained a number of recommendations which included the establishment of a new single NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee in order to streamline and simplify existing arrangements for commissioning. In addition to building on the work of the EASC, WHSSC and NCCU, the new Joint Committee will also be responsible for commissioning 111 services and Sexual Assault Referral Centres. It should be noted that individual Health Boards are ultimately accountable to their population and other stakeholders for the provision of the services commissioned by the Joint Commissioning Committee for the residents in their area.

The new NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee was established on 1st April 2024.

1.2 Regional Integrated Care Fund

In August 2021, the Minister for Health and Social Services approved a new five year regional integration fund to support the continued development of integrated health and social care services in Wales. The regional integration fund supports the develops national integrated models of care around six thematic priorities as follows:

- Community-based care, prevention and community co-ordination.
- Place-based care, complex care closer to home.
- Promoting good emotional health and well-being.
- Supporting families to stay together safely and through providing therapeutic support for care-experienced children.
- Home from hospital.
- Accommodation-based solutions

The seven regional partnership boards, which lead on the development of projects to support delivery of the regional integrated fund, are now firmly embedded as part of the health and social care landscape. They are recognised as the space in which partners come together to create understanding and jointly plan health and care services in the community.

Welsh Government officials are now in the process of establishing a cross-sector leadership group that will take this work forward to the next phase, aligning a wide range of existing programmes and activity, such as the Regional Integrated Fund, the strategic primary care programme and the urgent and emergency six-goals programme, to this agenda. This next phase will have a specific focus on ensuring that the system being developed is attuned to the specific needs of older people with complex needs and frailty.

1.3 Draft mental health and wellbeing strategy

The Welsh Government public consultation on its draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2034 was launched in February 2024. This will replace the previous ten year strategy 'Together for Mental Health'. The strategy sets out an overarching vision for mental health and wellbeing in Wales, alongside four key vision statements, supporting principles, and a series of high level actions to support implementation.

The consultation ends on 11th June 2024.

1.4 Draft suicide and self-harm prevention strategy

The Welsh Government has also published a new draft Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Strategy 2024-2034 for public consultation, which will replace the previous strategy 'Talk to me 2: the suicide and self-harm prevention strategy for 2015-2022'. The strategy sets out an overarching vision for suicide and self-harm in Wales, alongside six underpinning principles, six high-level objectives and a number of supporting objectives.

The consultation ends on 11th June 2024.

1.5 Changes to the Putting Things Right process and amendments to the National Health Service (Concerns, Complaints and Redress Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - Consultation

In February 2024, the Welsh Government announced a 12 week consultation on the Putting Things Right process and amendments to the National Health Service (Concerns, Complaints and Redress Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2011. The purpose of the consultation is to:

- Listen to the citizens of Wales and other stakeholders about their experience in raising complaints about NHS care.
- Ask for feedback on some changes proposed to the current process.

The “Putting Things Right” process was set up under the National Health Service (Concerns, Complaints and Redress Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2011. It provided people with a single process for raising a concern or complaint about NHS services. It also set out the process for considering and offering redress where harm, associated with that care, has been caused. The regulations, which have been in place for over a decade, required some review and modernisation to bring them up to date with current practice. The consultation brings together a number of key lessons from listening to the public and care providers and sets out proposed policy changes which aim to:

- Place people at the heart of the process.
- Provide an improved focus on compassionate patient-centred communication.
- Improve the Putting Things Right process to be more inclusive.
- The inclusion of escalation processes for urgent concerns of deliberate abuse or harm from care, or after someone dies.
- Refresh the arrangements to provide free legal advice and medical expert reports.

These changes build on the Duties of Candour and Quality implemented in 2023, and the Speaking Up Safely Framework, all of which support the commitment to a culture of openness, transparency, and greater accountability in the Welsh NHS. The proposed changes focus on ensuring those responsible for the provision of healthcare are actively listening to and learning from patients and their families to improve the quality and safety of care.

The consultation will run until 6th May 2024.

1.6 Health Impact Assessment Regulations - Consultation

Regulations under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 have been developed to require specified public bodies to carry out Health Impact Assessments in certain circumstances. Wales will become one of the first countries in the world to place Health Impact Assessments on a statutory footing.

A consultation on the health impact assessment regulations was held between December 2023 and March 2024. The aim of the consultation was to address i) What we want to consider; ii) To whom the regulations apply; iii) When the regulations will apply; iv) How a Health Impact Assessment should be conducted; v) Publishing a Health Impact Assessment and vi) The role of Public Health Wales.

The responses to this consultation are currently being reviewed by the Welsh Government.

1.7 Rebalancing Care and Support Programme - Consultation

In November 2023, the Welsh Government published the summary of responses received to its consultation on the Rebalancing Care and Support Programme. The consultation covered the following:

- Proposals on a National Framework for commissioned care and support.
- Proposals on a Pay and Progression Framework for social care.
- Proposals on a National Office for Care and Support.
- Strengthening of Regional Partnership Board arrangements.

- Changes to the Code of Practice on the role of the Director of Social Services and related legislation.

The responses received to the consultation exercise and resultant analysis will inform further development of policy and legislation, as part of the Rebalancing Care and Support Programme. The Welsh Government will continue to engage with delivery partners and other stakeholders as part of this work.

1.8 National Framework for Social Prescribing

The National Framework for Social Prescribing was published in December 2023. The document has been developed following a period of engagement with over a 1,000 stakeholders and responses received to the consultation exercise undertaken in 2022 to seek views on a Welsh approach to social prescribing. The health and social care Regional Integration Fund (RIF) directly supports the development and delivery of integrated care which includes direct investment in social prescribing.

2. Regional developments

Joint Committee for Swansea Bay and Hywel Dda University Health Boards

In March 2024, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services announced the intention to direct Swansea Bay and Hywel Dda University Health Boards to establish a Joint Committee. The establishment of this Joint Committee will ensure that both Health Boards have the appropriate arrangements in place to plan and deliver healthcare services on a regional basis where appropriate to do so and to ensure the continued safety, quality and ongoing viability and sustainability of these services.

Welsh Government officials are working with both Health Boards to determine the membership and constitution of the new Joint Committee, together with ensuring their 3-year plans are sufficiently ambitious in their commitment to working regionally, with key deliverables identified. Both Health Boards will be held to account for the delivery of these plans via the Quality, Performance and Delivery Framework and the NHS Wales Oversight and Escalation Framework.

Growing Mid Wales Partnership

The 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.

Mid Wales Growth Deal

Since December work has been ongoing to update the Strategic Portfolio Business Case (SPBC), which is required annually, using the latest information available from the programmes and projects. This was due to be approved by the Growing Mid Wales Board at its meeting on 19th April 2024.

Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership

The Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) is one of four regional partnerships in Wales working to drive investment in skills by developing responses based upon local and regional need. The partnership works across the counties of Ceredigion and Powys, taking close consideration of the priorities of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership.

The Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025 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 Regional Skills Partnership team has reviewed its functions and identified its priorities to create a work plan to implement the agreed changes. The new Regional Skills Partnership Board with its revised membership met in January 2024 to agree these changes.

Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has been established to support the objectives of the Levelling Up programme. The Shared Prosperity Fund programme is broken down into 4 priority areas i) Communities and Place, ii) Supporting Local Business, iii) People and Skills and iv) Multiply (Adult Numeracy).

From 20th March 2023, projects operating in the Local Authority areas of Ceredigion and Powys have been able to present their outline applications for funding in a series of open funding calls. A total of 162 projects have been awarded funding in the region which are worth £37 million.

3. Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Working Group

Following a review the Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Working Group operating arrangements will be as follows:

- Members will attend meetings of the Mid Wales Joint Committee, in order to observe and ask questions of the Joint Committee during the 'Listening to You' agenda item.
- If any Member wishes to receive more information in the form of a report or presentation after the meeting of the Mid Wales Joint Committee, then a meeting of the Scrutiny Working Group will be arranged and held at that time.

4. Mid Wales leadership roles

There have been the following changes to key leadership roles across Mid Wales since the Joint Committee's Autumn meeting:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

- Carol Shillabeer, who has been in post as interim Chief Executive since May 2023, was formally appointed to the substantive role effective from January 2024.
- Dyfed Edwards, who has been in post as interim Chair since February 2023, was formally appointed as Chair at the end of January 2024.

Powys Teaching Health Board

- Hayley Thomas, who has been in post as interim Chief Executive since May 2023, was confirmed as the permanent Chief Executive in February 2024.

Hywel Dda University Health Board

- Professor Philip Kloer commenced in post as interim Chief Executive in February 2024.
- Judith Hardisty's role as interim Chair has been extended until the end of May 2024. Dr Neil Wooding has been appointed as the permanent Chair and will commence in post at the end of May 2024.

Powys County Council

- Emma Palmer commenced as Chief Executive of Powys County Council at the end of

October 2024.

Mid Wales Joint Committee - Leadership roles

The Joint Committee's Lead Chief Executive is Hayley Thomas, Chief Executive of Powys Teaching Health Board who replaces Steve Moore, former Chief Executive of Hywel Dda University Health Board.

As previously reported the Lead Chair role is vacant and it is hoped to confirm who will fulfil this role in the next few months.

There have been no changes to the remaining three key leadership roles for the Joint Committee:

- Lead Director of Planning - Stephen Powell, Executive Director of Planning, Performance and Commissioning, Powys Teaching Health Board
- Lead Clinical Executive Director - Dr Kate Wright, Medical Director, Powys Teaching Health Board
- Joint Committee Programme Director - Peter Skitt, County Director Ceredigion, Hywel Dda University Health Board and Programme Director, Mid Wales Joint Committee

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Maria Battle and Steve Moore for all their hard work during their time as the Lead Chair and Lead Chief Executive for the Joint Committee.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

For information - The Joint Committee are asked to note for information the written update on key items of relevance to the Mid Wales Joint Committee.