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Iechyd Cyhoeddus
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Public Health
Wales

Name of Meeting
Knowledge, Research and
Information Committee
Date of Meeting
10 March 2022
Agenda item:
3.1

Research and Evaluation Strategy Update

Executive lead:	Iain Bell, Director of Public Health Data, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Directorate
Author:	Elen de Lacy, Research and Development Manager, Research and Evaluation Division, Knowledge Directorate. Saddaf Shaheen, Joint Head of Research and Evaluation (interim), Research and Evaluation Division, Knowledge Directorate.

Approval/Scrutiny route:	Considered at the Business Executive Team Meeting on 1 March 2022
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Purpose

The report provides an update to the Knowledge, Research and Information Committee of the work so far to develop refreshed PHW Research Strategy.

Recommendation:

APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input type="checkbox"/>
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The Committee is asked to:

- **Receive** this paper as an update on the work so far to develop revised PHW Research Strategy
- **Note** - This is an ongoing piece of work and further updates will be provided to the Knowledge, Research and Information Committee once information collated and a report compiled
- **Note** – the hope that members of committee will be able to engage with the stakeholder engagement exercise

Link to Public Health Wales [Strategic Plan](#)

Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities and well-being objectives.

This report contributes to the following:

Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	All Strategic Priorities/Well-being Objectives
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Summary impact analysis

Equality and Health Impact Assessment	No Equality and Health Impact Assessment has been undertaken as a decision is not required by the Committee.
Risk and Assurance	Not identified as a risk on the Corporate Risk Register or Board Assurance Framework
Health and Care Standards	This report supports and/or takes into account the Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales Quality Themes All themes
Financial implications	The report will be published bilingually with the cost of translation met from the Research and Evaluation Division budget.
People implications	The process applies to all staff undertaking research.

1. Purpose / situation

This paper provides an update to the Knowledge, Research and Information Committee (KRIC) of the work so far to develop refreshed PHW Research Strategy, following the previous KRIC meeting in December 2021.

2. Background

Following a workshop style KRIC meeting in December 2021 where the landscape of research within PHW was discussed, it was agreed that development of a refreshed PHW Research Strategy would be commenced. The two initial activities agreed as required to support the development were as below:

- **Current Mapping of PHW Research and Evaluation Projects/Activities:** utilising existing data known but recognising current limitations therefore working with PHW teams to ensure as much is captured as possible.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** opportunity to build on discussion in KRIC workshop to review and understand where PHW's strengths are in research delivery and it is also an opportunity to identify areas of improvement or where further collaborations could be established. A better understanding of how PHW conducted research is perceived by stakeholders will better enable us to deliver and carry out research which will influence across the wider Welsh system and as a result, improve public health in Wales.

As PHW is also undertaking refresh of the Long Term Strategy, the work in relation to this strategy is planned to align wherever possible particularly in relation to engagement with relevant stakeholders.

3. Description/Assessment

Below further detail is provided on activities so far towards developing the refreshed strategy in anticipation of this informing a draft strategy to be presented at a future KRIC meeting.

Current Mapping of PHW Research and Evaluation

The Research and Evaluation team, within Data, Knowledge and Research Directorate, is working with PHW teams to collate a register of all research and evaluation activities carried out across the whole organisation from 2017-2022.

This will ensure all the work being undertaken by PHW is captured, as well as ongoing commitments and governance processes. It will provide an overview of research and evaluation across the organisation, and activities supporting the implementation of the Long Term Strategy.

The report will include all research activities from 2017-2022, across Public Health Wales to showcase the breadth of work undertaken but also allow visualisation of all themes.

It will include income that is generated and additional support provided within PHW to teams from “enabler” partners from the Research and Development office, Information Governance or Informatics as examples.

The Research & Development office has been able to share a compiled a list of all registered research projects by PHW Directorate from 2017 - 2022. This list has been shared with Directorate leads and Business and General Managers to review and update.

The full register will seek to capture ongoing and future planned (including most recent organisational IMTP draft);

- All research including Ph.D projects and any other student projects
- All in-house analytical research?
- Evidence synthesis research
- Where the division is paying teaching time to universities
- Staff who have honorary contracts with PHW

This takes a broad approach following the initial discussion at KRIC and covers all aspects of research including but not limited to medical, microbiology, epidemiology, social, economic, environmental research and evaluation.

This exercise will highlight potential opportunities for improvement in regards to governance processes and role of the Research and Development office, these opportunities can be considered as part of the strategy development. The research mapping exercise will be completed by mid-March and will be brought back to the next KRIC meeting

The Business Executive Team have been asked to ensure that their Directorates complete the returns fully so we can gain an accurate picture of the research activity within PHW and develop a robust strategy and governance arrangements.

Stakeholder Engagement

As above this exercise will build on the initial discussions within KRIC workshop which covered the below areas:

- What are the areas of strength for PHW Research & Evaluation?
- Areas where PHW Research and Evaluation can improve?
- Areas of strength across the wider Welsh system?

The aim will be to engage with internal and external stakeholders and encouraging them to provide objective feedback which can steer future research priorities and strategy development for PHW.

To ensure this stakeholder engagement and feedback is impartial and objective, the external stakeholder engagement element will be conducted by an external organisation with no affiliation to PHW. Data, Knowledge and Research directorate have procured the input from a supplier on this who commence on work on this in March 2022.

Data, Knowledge and Research teams will work with the supplier to identify and prioritise topics and the development and scoping required to shape each topic, to engage with external stakeholders to identify and prioritise themes and getting user views to shape the R&E strategy.

The approach taken for this stakeholder engagement piece will be informed by the principles and process designed by the supplier for its Priority Setting Partnerships. However, adaptations will be made to the approach, which is typically carried out over an 18 month period and to priority research questions for a specific disease or treatment area.

A stepped approach is proposed to this:

1. Approaching a wider external stakeholder group via email with a survey requesting feedback on key themes outlined from the KRIC discussion, with a two-week turnaround time for responses to be submitted. Further work on priority setting will be carried out, once feedback from this initial consultation is reviewed and themes mapped.
2. This will be followed up by more targeted focus groups or interview to explore the responses in more detail
3. A one-day stakeholder engagement workshop, chaired by the supplier and attended by external stakeholders and working in sub-groups to discuss the key themes which were put forward for discussion and synthesise the responses from the above two step.

In order to deliver this stakeholder engagement PHW work a steering group will be established which has representation from all the Directorates across PHW. The steering group will support with identifying external stakeholders

and ensure our stakeholder list is up to date and relevant to all the areas of PHW. The steering group will be responsible for:

- developing a research protocol with clearly defined terms of reference and scope of work
- Establish a working group and key contact to support with the supplier.
- assume the role of a prioritisation panel to assist with grouping topics in themes and work to prioritise these if we receive a large pool of diverse responses.

The final output from this exercise will be a report documenting stakeholder feedback with a high level summary pulling out the key themes and address the questions outlined above and also a more detail report allowing us to delve into the responses by user type.

This will be shared within future KRIC update as well forming part of the strategy development.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

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- **Note** - This is an ongoing piece of work and further updates will be provided to the Knowledge, Research and Information Committee once information collated and a report compiled
- **Note** – the hope that members of committee will be able to engage with the stakeholder engagement exercise