



**Unconfirmed Minutes of the Public Health Wales
Knowledge, Research and Information Committee
Public Meeting 16 June 2022, 09:30
Held via Microsoft Teams**

Present:		
Sian Griffiths	(SG)	Committee Chair and Non-Executive Director (Public Health)
Diane Crone	(DC)	Non-Executive Director (University)
Nick Elliot	(NE)	Non-Executive Director (Data and Digital)
In Attendance:		
Rob Bailey	(RB)	Staff side Representative
Iain Bell	(IB)	Director of Data, Knowledge and Research
Liz Heath	(LH)	Staff side Representative
Liz Blayney	(LB)	Deputy Board Secretary and Board Governance Manager
John Bolton	(JB)	Director for NHS Quality Improvement and Patient Safety/ Director Improvement Cymru
Mariana Dyakova	(MD)	Consultant in Public Health, Deputy Director and International Health Lead, WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being
Robin Howe	(RH)	Director for Infections
Ed Humpherson	(EH)	Director General for Regulation, Office for Statistics Regulation
Caroline Jones	(CJ)	Office for Statistics Regulation
Stuart Silcox	(SS)	Assistant Director – Integrated Governance
Louisa Nolan	(LN)	Head of Data Science
Meng Khaw	(MK)	National Director of Screening and Health Protection Services, Executive Medical Director
Sarah Whitehead	(SW)	Office for Statistics Regulation
Jan Williams	(JW)	Chair, Public Health Wales
Date: 16 June 2022	Version: v0.0	Page: 1

Apologies		
Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood	(RBW)	Executive Director of Quality, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals
Mark Bellis	(MB)	Executive Director of Policy Research and Development, Policy, Research and International Development
Helen Bushell	(HB)	Board Secretary and Head of Board Business Unit
Secretariat		
Andrew Morton	(AM)	Board Support Officer
<i>The meeting commenced at 09:30</i>		
KRIC 1/2022	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that meetings were being held electronically.		
The Committee noted the apologies above.		
The Committee noted that the meeting was being recorded to support the accuracy of the minutes, the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been agreed at the following meeting in September 2022.		
KRIC 2/2022	Declarations of Interest	
There were no declarations of interest made, in addition to those already declared on the Declarations of Interest Register.		
KRIC 3/2022	Introduction / IMTP Context	
IB provided a verbal update detailing the context of the Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMPT): One of the themes of the IMPT was maximising the use of digital data and evidence to improve health and wellbeing of Wales. Within this theme, there were four key areas:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence and analysis would be prioritised to focus on what works communicated with impact to improve health and well-being.• Inclusion would be embedded into digital, data and evaluation to ensure we reduce inequalities in public health.• Utilising emerging technologies and data science to give public health professionals and the wider system right-time information to deliver services.• Using digital and agile to deliver user-centric services to improve outcomes.		
He noted that this broader framework from the IMPT would be the focus of this Committees work programme, with the focus this year on the research agenda.		
SG thanked IB for the overview.		
Date: 16 June 2022	Version: v0.0	Page: 2

KRIC 4/2022**Official Statistics**

SB welcomed EH, SW and CJ) to the meeting from the Office of Statistics Regulation (OSR), who presented to the Committee on Statistics for the public Good.

Key points from the presentation included :

- The role of the Office of Statistics Regulation was to safeguard the production and publication of statistics that serve the public good in the UK. The overarching vision was that statistics should service the public good.
- Published statistics were therefore a public asset, users ranging from experts through to community groups, charities and businesses.
- OSR work is organised conceptually under the code of practice for statistics covering three areas: how data and statistics were produced; how they were designed and communicated; and looking at how statistics and data were used and the role of protecting the use of statistics in public debate
- Focus is placed on concepts of trustworthiness, quality and value.
 - o **Trustworthiness:** focus on providing evidence that an organisation was trustworthy and demonstrating commitment to trustworthiness.
 - o **Quality:** To convey the extent of the imperfections of the data, and the steps being taken to close the gap. This involved being clear in the explanation of where the data was from, the methods applied to produce the data, the limitations of those methods and communicating very clearly what the statistics say, and what the statistics do not say.
 - o **Value:** The organisation that produces the statistics has the responsibility to say what the data means, and providing insight, as well as ensuring appropriate accessibility and communication.
- Activity of the OSR during the pandemic included: keeping an overview of the increase in data being published at pace and the increased public interest in this information and publicly intervening where necessary when statistics or their use was unclear or misleading; development of new regulatory guidance ; rapid reviews to assess data against the Code of Practice for statistics which were published to be accessible for both members of the public and producers of data to support openness and transparency.
- Developing and publicising the concept of intelligent transparency, where data made available and published with the sources and an explanation of the context to enable everyone to understand the full picture.

SG thanked EH, SW and CJ for the informative presentation.

The Committee discussed:

- The intention for PHW to sign up to the principles of the code of practice, and to take this forward in the work to develop the PHW Research strategy.
- In reflecting on PHW during the pandemic, EH noted the recognition that professional epidemiological advice had had a higher profile and there was intense interest in the wider public interest, for example on the positive development of the use of dashboards as a useful public resource. He emphasised the opportunity to build on this public engagement post pandemic.
- The issue of digital and data literacy for the population and how we progress this, noting the behavioural data and insights work.
- Support offered from OSR to PHW, citing examples of cervical screening where support to understand the messaging from the data would have been useful.
- The increased use of new data sources that were less precise, such as social media data, for insights into public health and real time health delivery.
- Intelligent transparency in the context of equality and diversity data, and the need for the data around protected characteristics to be supported by a well explained context and access to the data.

There were two areas of the Committee's discussion that EH agreed to provide a response outside of the meeting which could be circulated to the Committee:

- In a data abundant world, digital data literacy becoming more important, the Committee asked EH for advice on making the most of this emerging environment.
- Regarding Intelligent transparency, the Committee noted the importance of considering public health organisations understanding impact and the idea that the pandemic was a "teachable moment". The Committee asked for advice from EH as to how this could be harnessed and capitalised on.

Action: EH/LB

SG thanked EH, CJ and SW for the informative presentation and the offer to provide advice on further work where useful/appropriate.

KRIC 5/2022

Research and Evaluation Strategy

KRIC 6.1/2022

Strategy Progress Update

IB provided an update to the Committee on the progress with the development of the Research and Evaluation strategy, focusing on the research mapping and the impact of this research.

IB highlighted the volume of research activity within the organisation, emphasising the need to consider how this activity mapped across to the Strategic priorities, and how we could maximise impact.

He drew out the emerging themes from the development of the strategy:- openness and transparency; partnership and working together and how we influence our funders; and measuring and understanding our impact.

The next steps for the strategy development would be to validate the ongoing research mapping, and align work with review of the Long Term Strategy ,linking with our strategic themes.

The Committee considered:

- How the evaluation of interventions was achieved, and how we could develop a system that incorporates and integrates evaluation.
- Suggestion of the development of an evaluation hub. IB confirmed there was a small team within the directorate who was focusing on evaluation. Their priorities currently included the All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme, Welsh Government Strategies such as 'Health Weight Healthy Wales', free school meals and the childcare offer.
- The need for evaluation to look at the longitudinal impact of interventions.
- Importance of more granularity on the impact of the Research, including the system wide impact as a result of population health interventions. IB agreed with this and the need to establish feedback loops in real time to understand the impact, as well as more benchmarking, to develop a more systematic approach to this.
- Suggestion to link with other existing Welsh networks.
- The cultural shift needed within the system, and the need for PHW to set out clearly the key areas of focus and research priorities and to communicate this openly and consistently to add value.
- The need to look at innovation, such as the increased use of social media data.

SG thanked IB for the update.

The Committee:

- **Received and considered** the update on progress to date, in regards, to a review of PHW Research Strategy.
- **Noted** the work carried out to date and some of the emerging themes.

KRIC 6/2022	Global Profile
KRIC 6.1/2022	Research within Specialist and Reference Laboratories

The Committee received an update from MK and RH on Research, Development and Evaluation within the Specialist and Reference Units, Infection Services Division.[Slides are available]

As part of the presentation, RH highlighted the following:

- The primary focus of the Specialist and Reference Units was on service delivery. However, research ,development and evaluation (RDE) were critical for the development and maintenance of excellent cutting-edge services, and scientific and clinical leadership in their specialist fields.
- The Specialist and Reference Units were all actively involved in RDE in their areas with 69 current on-going projects
- There had been 29 recently completed projects and plans for initiation of a further 35 projects.
- There were a range of different types of RDE projects including:
 - Clinical trials led by external partners or from within PHW
 - Diagnostic or Clinical developments within PHW
 - Evaluation of novel Clinical pathways or Diagnostics led by PHW or external partners
- The main quantifiable RDE outputs were publications in peer-reviewed journals. Over the 4 ½ years from 2018 – present, there had been 145 papers published from the 6 Units – an average of 5.4 papers/unit/year.
- There was a significant amount of RDE performed within the 6 Specialist and Reference Units with the Infection Services. Wider impact was more difficult to quantify, but could be seen in the diagnostic and clinical innovations within the units and the national and international standing of many of the Clinical and Scientific Leads.

The Committee considered:

- The RDE within this area was impressive, and in many cases world leading in its impact.
- The funding base for the specialist reference labs. RH confirmed that this was different in each case, some had core funding, and had built up funding from clinical units to support expansion. Others for example the Specialist Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Unit did not have core income, but was funded via the research income.
- Considering this in the context of the development of the PHW research Strategy, the Committee highlighted the link with many different research councils and the need to ensure the strategy covered the breadth of all the types of RDE that PHW engage with.
- Consideration of barriers to RDE and the example of paying to publish in journals.
- Highlighted the need to link strategically to universities and honorary roles.
- How the team balance primary focus of the units on service delivery, with the research activity, and how the research activity links in with the IMPT so that there was a clear line through organisational objectives withal research activity. RH noted that the balance of service delivery and RDE was clear as in order to deliver their service it was important to be at the forefront of the clinical and lab diagnostics and understanding their specialist areas.
- Importance of the overarching research strategy outlines the environment and infrastructure that we would want to see for RDE. –

- Discussion on whether there was a need for an overarching strategy for the areas that we want to focus on for RDE. The Committee noted that different priorities with the different reference groups / service delivery made this complex and the focus should be more on how we support the organisation to undertake RDE in an integrated way and principles underpinning of RDE rather than specific areas to focus on.
- Context and impact of Brexit, noting the need to consider this to make sure we were taking the opportunities to continue EU funding.

SG thanked RH and MK for the presentation, and the update on Research, Development and Evaluation within the Specialist and Reference Units, Infection Services Division.

KRIC 6.2/2022**Research Opportunities the WHO Collaborating Centre**

The Committee received a verbal update from MD on Research Opportunities within the WHO Collaborating Centre.

MD provided a presentation to the Committee providing a brief overview of the opportunities within a global context, [slides available] including:

- Launch of the International Health Strategy in 2017, which was currently being updated and refreshed in the context of the PHW Long Term Strategy Review, post Covid realities and other global developments including Brexit.
- Summary of international engagement and research to support the knowledge mobilisation cycle and enabling global health engagement, including partnerships and opportunities for research, training and knowledge mobilisation across the organisation and internationally.
- Outline of the work of the WHO Collaborating centre including:
 - Enabling and facilitating international / global health engagement, partnerships and opportunities for research, training and knowledge mobilisation across the organisation and beyond
 - Network of more than 800 WHO collaborating centres worldwide across more than 80 countries
 - Informs and supports the development of policies, action and solutions to achieve healthy prosperous lives for the current and future generations
 - Working across the UK and globally, bringing in and sharing learning, innovation, expertise and good practice, incl. the NHS, National and Local Government, academia, public and third sector
- Informing and accelerating action and solutions to place health equity at the heart of all policies and investments WHESRI
- Strengthening the case for investment in population wellbeing and health equity towards building an Economy of Wellbeing
- Strengthening of focus on *Health and Equity in All Policies* as a way of achieving sustainable development, leaving no one behind

- Enhancing understanding and awareness, and driving investment, for building capacity and resilience to prevent adversity, trauma and injuries across the life course
- Linking with UK, International and global health groups including Nursing Now, UK Aid, EUPHA, Maastricht University, Hub Cymru Africa, IANPHI, Commonwealth secretariat, ECDC.
- Develop European funding catalogues before Brexit, been working with WWG working to review how these links are not lost.

The Committee thanked MD for the informative presentation, commenting on the breadth of the work within the collaborating centre, particularly the range of international partners .

KRIC 7/2022	Digital and Data Strategy
--------------------	----------------------------------

KRIC 7.1/2022	Strategy Progress Update
----------------------	---------------------------------

IB provided a verbal update to the Committee on the development of the All Wales Digital Strategy. He noted that this was progressing and would be finalised shortly. He added that once this work had been completed, there would then be the need to review this in the context of PHW and to build on the strategy in terms of what it means for PHW. This would focus on two main areas; how we would embed the agile principles within the strategy focusing on how we design and build services with users at the centre of this; and how we maximise our data and our analysis of our data in an agile way.

SG thanked IB for the update and noted that a further update would be provided at the next meeting in September.

KRIC 8/2022	Items for Approval
--------------------	---------------------------

KRIC 8.1/2022	Minutes, Action Log and Matters Arising
----------------------	--

The Committee received the minutes and action log of the meeting held on 09 March 2022 (Ref: 8.1 KRIC 2022_06_16).

The Committee **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 09 March 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

There Committee **approved** the closure of two actions on the action log.

KRIC 9/2022	Managing Risk
--------------------	----------------------

The Committee received an update on the Corporate and Strategic Risks within the remit of the Committee. The paper highlighted changes since the Committee last reviewed the Strategic and Corporate Risk Register.

The Committee:

- **Considered** the Corporate Risk Register and the Strategic Risk Register relevant to the Committee's remit
- **Took assurance** that the organisation's Strategic and Corporate risks were being managed appropriately

KRIC 10/2022	Committee Governance
KRIC 10.1/2022	Bi-Annual Policy Update
<p>The Committee received the Bi-Annual Corporate Policy update.</p> <p>The Committee took assurance on the prioritisation and progress being made to review Knowledge, Research and Information Committee policies, procedures and other written control documents.</p>	
KRIC 10.2/2022	Forward Look
<p>The Committee received the Committee forward look (Ref: 10.2 KRIC 2022_06_16).</p>	
KRIC 10/2022	Closing Administration
<p>Any other business: None</p> <p>The Committee were invited to provide feedback from the meeting via email, including any areas that worked well, and any areas for improvement.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting: 21 September 2022.</p>	
<i>The meeting closed at 11:40</i>	