GIG CYMRU NHS WALES | Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales	**Name of Meeting** Knowledge, Research and Information Committee **Date of Meeting** 6 December 2022 **Agenda item:** 5.1

Research and Evaluation Strategy Update

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Author:	Elen de Lacy Research and Evaluation Strategic Partnership Lead, Knowledge Directorate

Approval/Scrutiny route:	Iain Bell, Director of Public Health Data, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Directorate

Purpose

The report provides an update to the Knowledge, Research, and Information Committee of the work so far to develop a refreshed Public Health Wales (PHW) Research Strategy focussing on research by the James Lind Alliance into the research needs of our stakeholders.

Recommendation:

APPROVE	CONSIDER	RECOMMEND	ADOPT	ASSURANCE
☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

The Committee is asked to:

- **Receive and consider** this paper on progress to date, in regards, to a review of PHW Research Strategy.
- **Provide views** on the emerging themes and areas

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

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 takes into account the Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales Quality Themes All themes
Financial implications	None
People implications	The process applies to all staff undertaking research.

Update on Research Strategy

As discussed at the last meeting, we have now begun to form our core principles for our research strategy based on three key pieces of work:

a) Research mapping across PHW
b) User vision work with users of our research and intelligence products
c) Research prioritisation work undertaken by James Lind Alliance

We were asked to provide more details on the third strand of the work and who we have engaged with.

Research by the James Lind Alliance into the research needs of our stakeholders.

1. Background

In December 2021, the Public Health Data, Knowledge and Research (PHDKR) Directorate of Public Health Wales (PHW) approached the James Lind Alliance (JLA) to discuss the feasibility of identifying research and evaluation priorities for PHW, using the JLA's established research prioritisation method. The aim was to inform the development of PHDKR's research and evaluation strategy by involving PHW stakeholders to identify key themes, evidence needs and priority concerns.

The JLA is a UK-based initiative that is supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). Established in 2004, it has developed a method for involving patients, carers and clinicians in setting priorities for health and social care research.

This report describes the process that was undertaken and the themes and priorities that emerged.

2. Method

An approach was taken, which drew on elements of the JLA process and its principles, namely, to involve a range of stakeholder groups in a process of identifying and then prioritising themes and evidence needs for PHW research and evaluation to address. This was developed iteratively and adapted at each stage in response to stakeholder engagement levels and the nature of the findings as they emerged.

The steps taken were:

- **Survey** of stakeholders to collect priorities/evidence needs
    - Identification of key stakeholders to involve

    - Online survey
    - Review of survey response to identify key themes
- **Workshop** with stakeholders to examine priority themes in greater depth
    - Online workshop discussion
    - Review of workshop findings and production of workshop report
- **Consultation** with stakeholders to review and input on workshop findings
    - Circulation of workshop report to workshop participants and wider stakeholder group
    - Synthesis of input to workshop report

It was agreed at this point that the exercise had generated sufficient information with which PHDKR could work.

Please see **Appendix 1** for the list of stakeholders who engaged with the JLA work.

3. Findings and themes

a. Survey findings

This section describes how the survey led to the identification of key themes which then became the basis of further stakeholder consultation. The findings are then described in order of perceived priority, based on the frequency with which they were raised by stakeholders and the level of detail generated about them. These are grouped by sub-themes and subsequent topics which were raised in both the workshop and the consultation.

Twenty-four stakeholders took part in the online survey which aimed to understand how they use current research and evaluation produced by PHW, and to identify potential topics which stakeholders think PHW should prioritise for research and evaluation. The majority were from academic institutions, along with representatives from government, health and social care provision, and think tanks.

To summarise:

- Respondents welcomed the fact PHW was talking and listening to them and wanted this to continue.

- PHW communications should work for multiple audiences to maximise impact.
- They supported the notion of looking strategically at PHW's evidence gaps to ascertain how to fill them or work in partnership with others, namely other organisations in the system who develop evidence/research such as academic institutions, other NHS bodies/health boards and private research companies, by funding, delivering and disseminating research.

The area of health behaviours, mental health and the wider determinants of health emerged as key themes which stakeholders identified as priority research areas for PHW. It was agreed that further consultation would explore these themes and others.

b. Workshop and consultation findings:

The workshop brought together PHW stakeholders from academia, government, policy, health and social care provision and the voluntary sector. The aim was to understand it in more detail and to identify questions or uncertainties which PHW research and evaluation might focus on. Twelve participants attended.

Key research ideas which emerged through the stakeholder survey, which were used to prompt further discussion at the workshop, included:

- Addiction, behaviour change, insights
- Understanding the motivations for people to lose weight/maintain a healthy weight
- Best practice analysis of international action on alcohol and developing capacity to rapidly evaluate interventions on tobacco
- Factors predictive of success or relapse in substance misuse including alcohol
- Mechanisms for enabling behaviour change
- The role of physical activity in disease prevention and management
- Healthy lifestyles - how to help people move more, eat less and reduce obesity.
- Wider determinants of health including social determinants
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Complex and interlinked conditions

- The natural and built environment
- Pandemic preparedness and infectious diseases
- Vaccine hesitancy

The discussion group aimed to understand these in more detail, including identifying specific evidence gaps, key questions for research, populations or problems of particular concern which it was felt PHW should prioritise for research and evaluation.

A report of the discussion group was produced, summarising themes that emerged, as well as other topic areas that came out through the workshop discussions, along with further detail of suggested evidence gaps specific to Wales. This report was then circulated back to both participants and stakeholders who were unable to attend. They were asked to review the report and provide their reflections on: whether these were the key research and evaluation gaps that PHW should focus on; if there is evidence on effective interventions that address the suggested evidence gaps, and if there are specific interventions or evidence gaps that PHW should focus on within the themes.

Twenty-three stakeholders contributed to the consultation, including representatives of Welsh Government, independent research institutions, third sector, universities, public health bodies and NHS Wales.

This is useful input into the development of the strategy which will take place alongside the development of the Long-Term strategy. Further work is required to understand the research priorities which fit around many aspects of environmental public health, pathogen genomics and the work of our laboratories.

4. Next steps

This exercise has produced a flavour of the issues that PHW stakeholders are interested in. These issues are expressed in varied terms, from very broad, overarching themes, to more specific, narrowly focused questions.

We will now need to develop our priorities through

- Understanding better those areas which have not been well covered by this exercise: pathogen genomics; laboratories and environmental public health
- Development of the priorities in alignment with PHW's long-term strategy

We will provide a comprehensive update and proposal on research priorities to KRIC in March 2023

5. The Committee is asked to:

- **Receive and consider** this paper on progress to date, in regards, to a review of PHW Research Strategy.
- **Provide views** on the emerging themes and areas.
- **Consider next steps**

Appendix 1: James Lind Alliance stakeholder engagement list

SECTOR	ORGANISATION	LEAD / TEAM / GROUP
NHS Wales	Velindre	Velindre, Consultant
NHS Wales	Velindre	Velindre, Consultant
NHS Wales	Velindre	Velindre, Director, Health Technology Wales
NHS Wales	Digital Health Care Wales	Digital Health Care Wales, Director of Digital Health Strategy
NHS Wales	Welsh Ambulance Service	Welsh Ambulance Service, Paramedic
Public Health Wales	Primary Care Division	Principal Public Health Practitioner, Primary Care Division
Public Health Wales	Primary Care Division	Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Primary Care Division
Public Health Wales	Primary Care Division	Consultant in Dental Health, Primary Care Division (previous Professor of Health Services Research at Bangor University)
Public Health Wales	Public Health Medicine	Consultant in Public Health Medicine & Associate Director of Pub, Public Health Wales - representing Teresa Owen
Think Tanks / Independent Research Institutions	Wales Centre for Public Policy	Wales Centre for Public Policy, Director
Think Tanks / Independent	Wales Centre for Public Policy	Wales Centre for Public Policy

Research Institutions		
Think Tanks / Independent Research Institutions	**Bevan Foundation**	**Bevan Foundation, Director**
Think Tanks / Independent Research Institutions	**Bevan Commission**	**Bevan Commission**
Think Tanks / Independent Research Institutions	**Bevan Commission**	**Bevan Commission, Director**
Third Sector	**Social Care Wales**	**Social Care Wales**
Third Sector	**Stroke Association Wales**	**Stroke Association Wales, Associate Director**
UK Universities	**Aberystwyth University**	**Aberystwyth University, Pro VC [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Aberystwyth University**	**Aberystwyth University, Pro Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Aberystwyth University**	**Bangor University, VC [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff Metropolitan University**	**Cardiff Metropolitan University, President & Vice Chancellor [Professor]**

UK Universities	**Cardiff Metropolitan University**	**Cardiff Metropolitan University, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor)**
UK Universities	**Cardiff Metropolitan University**	**Cardiff Metropolitan University, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, President & Vice Chancellor, CEO [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Enterprise, [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University Pro Vice-Chancellor of Biomedical and Life Sciences, [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Wrexham Glyndwr University**	**Wrexham Glyndwr University Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Wrexham Glyndwr University**	**Wrexham Glyndwr University Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Open University**	**Open University Vice Chancellor [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Open University**	**Open University Pro Vice Chancellor Research, Enterprise and Scholarship [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Open University**	**Open University National Director for OU**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University Vice Chancellor [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for Research & Innovation**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Medical School, Pro-Vice Chancellor/Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Health & Life Science**
UK Universities	**University of South Wales**	**University of South Wales Vice Chancellor [Professor, OBE]**

UK Universities	**University of South Wales**	**University of South Wales Pro Vice-Chancellor Research [Professor]**
UK Universities	**University of South Wales**	**University of South Wales Pro Vice-Chancellor Innovation [Professor]**
UK Universities	**University of South Wales**	**University of South Wales Vice-Chancellor of UWTSD [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Aberystwyth University**	**Aberystwyth University, Centre for Research and Innovation in Rural Health (CRIRH), Director**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Reader in Psychology (Social Neuroscience), co-Director of school**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Co-Director, Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation (CHEME)**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Dean of College of Health and Behavioural Sciences [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Head of School of Health Sciences**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Dean of College of Human Sciences, School of Human and Behavioural Sciences [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences (Medical Microbiology)**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Head of School Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences /School of Human & Behavioural Sciences/ Senior Lecturer**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University; Co-Director North Wales Centre for Primary Care Research / Professor of General Practice [Professor]**

UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Interim Head of School of Psychology [Dr]**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Senior Lecturer in Health Sciences Research**
UK Universities	**Bangor University**	**Bangor University, Director of the Collaborative Institute for Education Research, Evidence and Impact (CIEREI) / Deputy Head of the College for Health and Behavioural Science**
UK Universities	**Cardiff Metropolitan University**	**Cardiff Metropolitan University, Senior Lecturer & Programme Director, Cardiff School of Sport & Health Services [Dr]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff Metropolitan University**	**Cardiff Metropolitan University, Dean of Cardiff School of Sport and Health Sciences [Dr]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff Metropolitan University**	**Cardiff Metropolitan University, Programme Director Psychology, Cardiff School of Sport & Health Sciences**
UK Universities	**Cardiff Metropolitan University**	**Cardiff Metropolitan University, Professor of Exercise and Health, School of Sport & Health Sciences [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Director, Division of Population Medicine**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Head of School of Healthcare Sciences**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Academic Director, SPARK**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Professor & Head of School of Psychology [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Head of Social Sciences [Professor]**

UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Professor in Social Interventions and Health, Director DECIPHer and Lead for the Schools Health Research Network [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Director of the Data Innovation Research Institute, Professor of Operational Research**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Director, Centre for Trials Research**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Professor of Social Sciences & Public Health [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Professor, School of Biosciences [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Cardiff University**	**Cardiff University, Clinical Professor**
UK Universities	**Wrexham Glyndwr University**	**Glyndwr University, School of Social and Life Sciences, Faculty Dean**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Deputy Head of College of Psychology / Deputy Executive Dean, Medicine, Health and Life Science - Faculty [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Professor of Health Economics**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Associate Professor, Public Health [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, ADRC Director, co-founder and director of the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Clinical Professor of Public Health, Health Data Science & Co-Director, Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) databank [Professor]**

UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Professor - Professor, Health Data Science & chair in Public Health and Psychiatry, based in Population Data Science[Professor]**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, NCPHWR Director & Professor (CIPHER), Health Data Science [Professor]**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Personal Chair, Public Health & Academic Director of Swansea Centre for Health Economics (SCHE)**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Professor of Health Services Research, Health Data Science**
UK Universities	**Swansea University**	**Swansea University, Professor, Public Health (early experiences of parenthood with a focus on infant feeding, mental health and normal baby behaviour)**
UK Universities	**University of South Wales**	**University of South Wales, Head of Life Sciences and Education**
UK Universities	**University of South Wales**	**University of South Wales, Associate Dean - Research and Innovation (Interim), Faculty of Life Sciences and Education**
UK Universities	**University of South Wales**	**University of South Wales, Director of Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care and Professor of Health and Care Policy,**
UK Universities	**University of Trinity St David's**	**University of Trinity St David's, Institute of Management and Health**
Wales University Health Boards	**Aneurin Bevan UHB**	**Aneurin Bevan UHB**

Wales University Health Boards	**Betsi Cadwaladr UHB**	**Betsi Cadwaladr UHB**
Wales University Health Boards	**Cardiff & Vale UHB**	**Cardiff & Vale UHB**
Wales University Health Boards	**Cardiff and Vale UHB, Deputy Director of Public Health**	**Cardiff and Vale UHB, Deputy Director of Public Health (also Honorary lecturer Cardiff Uni; Honorary Researcher Swansea Uni)**
Wales University Health Boards	**Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB**	**Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB**
Wales University Health Boards	**Hywel Dda UHB**	**Hywel Dda UHB**
Wales University Health Boards	**Powys Teaching UHB**	**Powys Teaching UHB**
Wales University Health Boards	**Swansea Bay UHB**	**Swansea Bay UHB**
Wales University Health Boards	**Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB**	**Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB Consultant Clinical Biochemist**
Wales University Health Boards	**Cardiff & Vale UHB**	**Cardiff & Vale UHB, Locum Consultant In Intensive Care**
Wales University Health Boards	**Cardiff & Vale UHB**	**Swansea Bay UHB, Professor, Diabetes**
Wales University Health Boards	**Aneurin Bevan UHB**	**Aneurin Bevan UHB, Assistant Director for Research and Development**
Wales University Health Boards	**Hywel Dda UHB**	**Hywel Dda UHB, Director for Research, Innovation and University Partnerships**

Wales University Health Boards	**Betsi Cadwaladr UHB**	**Betsi Cadwaladr UHB, Research & Development**
Welsh Govemernt	**Health Policy**	**Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Wales**
Welsh Government	**COVID-19 vaccination programme**	**Deputy CMO for vaccines**
Welsh Government	**COVID-19 vaccination programme**	**Deputy CMO**
Welsh Government	**Health and Care Research Wales**	**Head of Policy in R&D**
Welsh Government	**Health and Social Services Division**	**Director General of Health and Social Services**
Welsh Government	**Health and Social Services Division**	**Research Lead, Health and Social Services Analytical team**
Welsh Government	**Health and Social Services Division**	**Health and Social Services, Head of Climate Change and Environment Public**
Welsh Government	**Programmes, Research and Development Division**	**Head of Programmes, Research and Development Division**
Welsh Government	**Public Health Division**	**Deputy Director of Public Health, Improvement, Prevention and Promotion**
Welsh Government	**Public Health Division**	**Deputy Director of Public Health**

Welsh Government	**Public Health Division**	**Chief Scientific Advisor**
Welsh Government	**Public Health Division**	**Public Health Division**
Welsh Government	**Senedd Research**	**Head of Research**
Welsh Government	**Senedd Research - Helth and Social Policy**	**Health and Social Policy Team · Research Team Leader**
Welsh Government	**Health and Care Research Wales**	**Health and Care Research Wales; National Director of Support & Delivery**
Welsh Government	**Health and Care Research Wales**	**Health and Care Research Wales; Director**