



 <p>GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales</p>	<p>Name of Meeting Knowledge, Research and Information Committee</p> <p>Date of Meeting 17 June 2025</p> <p>Agenda item: 3.7</p>
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<h2 style="text-align: center;">Digital and Data Design Authority Assurance March 2025</h2>	
<p>Executive lead:</p>	<p>Iain Bell, National Director Research, Data and Digital</p>
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<p>Approval/Scrutiny route:</p>	<p>Iain Bell, National Director Research, Data and Digital</p>
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<p>Purpose</p>
<p>The purpose of this paper is to provide assurance to Knowledge, Research and Information Committee (KRIC) on the implementation and delivery of PHW’s Digital and Data Strategy and Routemap.</p>

<p>Recommendation:</p>				
<p>APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive assurance that Public Health Wales (PHW) is delivering its Digital and Data Strategy through the agreed Routemap and has robust governance in place for managing digital and data work. 				



Link to Public Health Wales [Strategic Plan](#) and [Digital and Data Strategy](#)

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 decision is required.
Risk and Assurance	Risks are being managed in accordance with the Board Assurance Framework
Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act	This report supports the implementation of the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act by demonstrating a transparent approach to delivering improvements that address the wider determinants of health, in line with the Duty of Quality.
Financial implications	No direct financial implications. These are managed at relevant Directorate level, through IMTP planning or through individual programmes and business cases.
People implications	No direct implications



1. Purpose / situation

The purpose of this paper is to provide assurance to the Knowledge, Research and Information Committee (KRIC) on the implementation of the Digital and Data Strategy (including Artificial Intelligence, or AI).

2. Governance and Assurance of delivery of the strategy

The Digital and Data Strategy is supported in its delivery by a number of different governance and assurance mechanisms.

- The Digital and Data Design Authority (DDDA) is a cross-organisation group which provides support, challenge, and assurance for digital, data and technology work within, or affecting, Public Health Wales. It seeks alignment with the Digital and Data Strategy, visibility and understanding of the landscape and compliance with the standards. The DDDA oversees the digital and data portfolio and reports to Business Executive Team (BET). It also ensures compliance with the adopted digital standards of NHS Wales and Public Health Wales.
- The Artificial Intelligence Design Authority (AIDA) is a cross-organisation group with delegated authority from BET to provide support, challenge and assurance of AI across PHW. It is responsible for the oversight of the specific risks and opportunities that artificial intelligence (AI) brings to digital and data, as part of the suite of governance and guidance activities set out in the paper [Guidance and Governance for AI](#) (February 2025). It will embed governance, develop business processes for managing AI and drive the adoption of good practice frameworks across PHW.
- Programme and Project Boards have been established to lead and plan the delivery of our agreed priorities
 - Data, Analysis, Registers and Cloud programme
 - Digital Health Protection programme
 - Lung Screening programme IT workstream
 - Newborn Screening Re-platforming project
 - Cyber Security (being formed)
 - AI and Automation (through AI Design Authority)
- KRIC has oversight of the exploitation of Digital and Data to maximise impact against our long-term strategy. The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee (ACGC) have oversight of the Cyber Improvement Plan (a Digital and Data routemap priority) as well as monitor progress against cyber and digital



resilience audits and reviews, for example reviews against the Cyber Assessment Framework.

- Internal and external audits. There is a separate paper covering the Audit Wales assessment of Digital Transformation.

3. Digital and Data Routemap and overview of Delivery

The Digital and Data route map sets out how we will deliver the strategy objectives over the next 3 years.

The routemap has five delivery workstreams:

- Data, analysis, registers and cloud (DARC)
- Automation and AI
- People, infrastructure and tools
- Cyber Security
- Digital systems development (including health protection digital services).

During the IMTP process, the route-map was agreed and refined with some items being put on-hold or delayed to ensure that the routemap was achievable. A prioritisation was also applied to ensure that if further pressures were identified it was clear and transparent which areas of work would be de-prioritised.

This has now been used to update the portfolio and drive forward the programmes of work agreed through the IMTP process. The major changes to the portfolio as a result of this were:

- The Health Improvement Patient Administration System (HIPAS) development has been put on hold with alternative ways of delivering short-term functionality needs found. This will enable a more strategic approach in longer term building on other systems in development and ensuring the development works in partnership with the approach to lung cancer screening
- Pause all work on Customer Relationship Management and Online Training Platforms.
- Work on the strategic transformation of screening services and associated business case will not start until 2026/7.

In addition, investment into the digital teams was agreed to ensure we had the right skills in place to deliver the agenda. This covered:

- Establishment of a separate cloud team; formed of a cloud architect and cloud and data engineers
- Systems architect and development
- Portfolio management and support

Since the update to KRIC in March 2025, the following work has been completed:

- Completion of the digital diabetes discovery
- Delivery of an upgrade to our Azure Cloud platform which improves the security of our cloud platform and was the first stage of improvement in readiness for Digital Health Protection Programme
- Delivery of an improved demographics feed to Screening Services by replacing the Master Patient Index (MPI) with the Welsh Demographics Service (WDS) data therefore reducing the risk of incidents.
- Sexual Health Discovery was completed.

The key challenges for delivery remain our dependency on DHCW and Welsh Government with confused governance and need to ensure delivery. This has been recognised as a Corporate Risk 1780. The main programmes impacted by this are:

- 1) CANISC replacement where go live of coloscopy has been delayed for extended testing.
- 2) Newborn Screening where need for DHCW resource on address look-up has delayed delivery from May 2025 to July 2025.
- 3) LIMS2 which is a national programme being delivered by DHCW and timelines are very tight. We are reliant on DHCW for provision of training and a cutover plan and unless these are delivered soon, our go-live may need to be moved back to October.

Our two biggest programmes are awaiting funding decisions from Welsh Government: Digital Health Protection and Lung Cancer Screening.

Annex A sets out the Delivery Confidence Assessments for each programme in the portfolio and the rationale. As a matter of policy, any programme awaiting funding is Amber/Red.

4. Standards

The Digital and Data Design Authority ensures delivery of our Data and Digital Route-map, digital needs in line with an agreed set of standards. The current core standards in PHW are:

- [Welsh Digital Public Service Standard](#)
- [Welsh Language Standards](#)
- [Accessibility Standards \(WCAG 2.2\)](#)
- [Code of Practice for Statistics](#)
- [HL7 FHIR \(WHC/2023/018\)](#)
- [ONS Geographic Codes \(WHC/2024/014\)](#)
- [SCCI0052 Dictionary of Medicines and Devices \(dm+d\) \(WHC/2024/042\)](#)

In Q1 2025-26, the DDDA approved the addition of a new identification standard - the NHS Welsh Identity Verification Standard following Welsh Health Circular 2025-011. The standard will only apply to GPs but may be relevant if PHW seeks to develop person-based services directly with GPs in the future.

The adherence of these standards is for each programme to demonstrate back to DDDA. For example, the Beta version of our new website has recently been accessibility tested and was found to be excellent by the accessibility standards. This programme is also significantly improving Welsh language compliance across our web estate.

5. Artificial intelligence (AI)

The AI Design Authority (AIDA) has met for the first time in May 2025. The majority of the discussion was:

- on the use of Generative AI (GenAI) in PHW
- draft guidance on the use of Copilot was reviewed
- Initial findings on the ChatGPT pilot
- exploring the use of GenAI to support coding
- Members recognised the progress in developing guidance on GenAI for staff, and the opportunities that it presents.

AIDA has requested the preparation of guidance for PHW staff regarding the use of all Generative AI tools. This guidance should clearly specify the tools that are authorised for use, outline best practices, for approval at the next AIDA meeting. This guidance should provide clarity for staff and strike the right balance between supporting innovation and productivity gains and mitigating the risks of data breaches or misuse. Once approved this guidance will be shared with staff through the AIDA SharePoint pages.

An overview of the work exploring the use of AI in screening (lung cancer, breast cancer and diabetic eye screening) was also presented, and the team are asked to return with a formal assurance paper at the next AIDA meeting.

6. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- **receive assurance** that Public Health Wales (PHW) is delivering its Digital and Data Strategy through the agreed Routemap and has robust governance in place for managing digital and data work.

Annex A - DDDA Portfolio Delivery Confidence Narrative April 2025

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
DP01 Digital health protection system replacement	<p>A programme to put in place a new digital health protection service, including replacement of Tarian and a CRM which is interoperable and suitable for the needs of a post-COVID Wales</p>	Amber/Red	Amber/Red	<p>The programme remains Amber/Red while we awaiting funding decision from Welsh Government on the Outline Business Case. PHW have responded to Welsh Government queries on the business case and are hoping to hear back imminently. Work continues on the steps required to move from OBC to FBC.</p>
DP02 Newborn Screening system re-platform	<p>Public Health Wales (PHW) host a legacy system that is used by clinical professionals for a variety of tasks, including the data entry of newborn screening results. The system consists of an Oracle database to record screening results and an Oracle Forms front-end. The current Newborn system is end of life and requires redevelopment so that it can continue to support clinical service delivery. The service is hosted on PHW infrastructure; however, the system is supported by DHCW.</p> <p>Phase 1 of multi-phased system redevelopment for the All Wales Newborn Hearing System</p>	Amber	Amber	<p>The programme is nearing its completion. There is a major dependency on DHCW for linking with address look-up. This has been raised as a service request for DHCW. The programme is now planned to complete in July 2025 (previous report was expectation of May).</p>

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
	and Newborn Bloodspot Screening Wales System. Phase 1 focused on re-platforming from existing unsupported (beyond end of life) platforms to new supported platform via use of external contractor.			
DP06 All Wales sexual health case management system	Following completion of discovery work in March 2025 on the needs for a sexual health case management system, a Business Case has been requested by Welsh Government.	Amber/Red	Amber	Following internal PHW discussions, it was concluded that an alpha was need to undertake a proper assessment of the costs associated with the programme. PHW are currently discussing the funding of the alpha phase with Welsh Government and how best to move this programme of work forward. Programme is Amber/Red as funding has yet to be secured.
DP08 PHW Web estate transformation	This Web Transformation is a complex transformation project. Our aim with the Web Estate Transformation Programme to create a consistent, user-	Amber/Green	Amber	High-Level Summary - The Beta Phase 2 of the Web Transformation Programme is now underway, with the ancillary site migration plan in progress. Our RAG status has

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
	<p>centred, compliant web estate in line with our brand strategy. Within this are a set of statutory requirements that must be met including meeting Welsh Language Standards and WCAG.2.2 Accessibility Standards. Healthy weight, Healthy you and Healthy Working Wales are now included in this programme</p>			<p>improved to Green/Amber after addressing content migration delays.</p> <p>The programme recognises the impact of the changes to ways of working on colleagues and understands that this work may feel unsettling. To support the migration and manage content development changes, a stakeholder engagement workstream has been established, with milestones to be approved at the Programme Board meeting on May 20.</p> <p>We are actively engaging with each site owner to ensure a smooth transition and have sought Executive support for overcoming resistance to change and ensuring timely, collaborative delivery.</p> <p>Summary of Key Decisions - As outlined in the Business Case, the following key decisions have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unified Platform: All PHW websites will migrate to one platform (WordPress), including 13 sites in the financial year 2025/26. - External Supplier: Empyrean

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				<p>Digital is contracted to build and maintain our web estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centralised Funding: Ongoing revenue costs for maintaining the Public Health Wales web estate will be funded from benefits realised through the closure of non-main platform sites. Directorate budgets for web hosting and maintenance will be centralised from April 2026. <p>Progress So Far Significant progress has been made, enabling the launch of a redeveloped website in private BETA in May 2025. This site will meet user needs and compliance requirements (Welsh Language & Accessibility). The private BETA will be visible to Public Health Wales staff for feedback and adjustments before the public launch in September 2025. WEDINOS and Sexual Health Wales site migrations are currently underway.</p> <p>Upcoming Milestones The programme is responsible for migrating 13 ancillary sites to the WordPress platform over the next 12 months, as outlined in the Web Transformation BETA Phase Business Case. The programme</p>

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				team will support each ancillary site owner through this migration process. As part of the launch plan, approved by Board in April 2025, the SRO and programme team will be showcasing a prototype of the private Beta site to the Chief Executive on the 7th of May.
DP09 Lung Cancer screening	Scoping project to inform a recommendation to Welsh Government as to how a targeted lung cancer screening programme could be delivered in Wales in the future. This will include all elements of the pathway, including IT requirements, phasing strategy, estimated cost etc	Amber/Red	Amber/Red	After undergoing scrutiny through various groups within PHW (up to BET and Board), the Interim Report was submitted to the Welsh Government for their review. We are currently awaiting their response. The programme is Amber/Red as funding has not been approved by Welsh Government.
DP10 Cyber Action Plan	The aim of the Cyber Improvement Plan is to make use of the Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) to plan our approach to cyber security priorities and inform how we are managing risks associated with our digital infrastructure. Key areas include threat intelligence, risk management, managing our legacy estate and cyber security resources.	Amber	Amber	The focus of Cyber Improvement Plan is to further reduce the strategic risk on cyber security, whilst aligning with key areas of the Cyber Assessment Framework outcomes of our reviews with the Cyber Resilience Unit (DHCW). Our priorities for the next quarter include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier management – review and enhance supply chain management and procurement best practices across PHW with subsequent

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				<p>policy. There has been an increase in 3rd party attacks, and this is as important as the protection of our own digital estate. This will be completed by end of August 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, disable and delete dormant accounts and eliminate the use of weak passwords in PHW, alongside ongoing cyber training and simulations as part of our commitment to mitigate vulnerabilities in our cyber posture • Completion of the Newborn Screening Replatforming to further reduce our legacy operating and database systems (see update DP02). <p>Additionally, progress continues to be made on other plan activities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Monitoring Coverage - all identified log sources are now being ingested into the national monitoring solution and associated alerts are in place. • Policy Development - Data Access policy has been out for public consultation, the

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				<p>policy and feedback is being reviewed finally before approval and sign-off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Assurance - Progress is being made against the process and alignment with other required groups/ boards/ authorities. <p>Programme is Amber to reflect the evolving nature of cyber threats and the need for ongoing senior management oversight to ensure highest priorities are delivered to lower the risk.</p>
<p>DP11 Data, Analysis, Registers, Cloud</p>	<p>A programme to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the right infrastructure, so that our use of data and analysis is safe, efficient and demonstrates value for money, and • Improve our data and data quality, so that we make the best use of our data for service, monitoring, analysis and research. 	Amber	Amber	<p>Priorities for this programme have been agreed through the IMTP process. Investment funding has been agreed to significantly strengthen our capability, and we will recruit agency staff whilst we recruit to the permanent positions. These both increase our confidence in delivery.</p> <p>The first stage of technical preparation of the Azure Cloud platform for the digital health protection system is complete. Azure funding for this financial year has been agreed. An agency cloud architect will be onboarded in mid-May and will take forward our</p>

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				<p>detailed technical planning for the routemap.</p> <p>Good progress, if slower than anticipated, has been made with preparing the Google Cloud Platform (GCP; National Data and Analysis Platform, NDAP) for onboarding analysis, with some of the initial uncertainties around working with DHCW to deliver our requirements resolved for the present. Long term, there is still uncertainty about the alignment of DHCW activity with our technical requirements, to ensure we deliver the benefits of NDAP as envisioned. We have strengthened our representation on NDR governance bodies to mitigate this, but uncertainties remain. Engagement with business areas is taking place in May, to set out the vision for NDAP and analysis at PHW, to capture business needs, and to build the detailed routemap for migration of analysis onto the platform. We are developing guidance to support that migration.</p> <p>The registers framework proposal will be presented to the DARC</p>

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				<p>Programme Board on 8 May for approval.</p> <p>There has been a pause in the data sub-project, as we recruit a new principal data engineer. In the short term, we have an agency data engineer starting on 12 May.</p> <p>Key activities for this coming month are engagement with user and technical needs across both platforms, and more detailed planning for the year ahead.</p>
<p>DP12 Automation and AI</p>	<p>A programme to create the priority backlogs in AI and Automation which can be prioritised and then assigned to data engineers</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>The first meeting of the AI Design Authority will take place on Monday 12 May. The AI Design Authority (AIDA) is responsible for the oversight of the specific risks and opportunities of AI, as part of the suite of governance and guidance activities set out in the paper Guidance and Governance for AI (February 2025). It will report into Business Executive Team and the Board.</p> <p>A paper on automation was taken to DDDA in April. This set out the scope and activities of the automation workstream and provided assurance to the PHW Executive and Board on the</p>

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				<p>automation workstream. There have been resourcing issues for automation, but we have an agency data engineer joining on 12 May, to support this work whilst we recruit a full time replacement band 8a and additional band 7 data engineer.</p> <p>The next steps are to take forward the work of AIDA and undertake the detailed planning to ensure successful delivery of the automation workstream.</p>
<p>DP16 Diabetic Eye Screening transformation</p>	<p>This is the digital part of the wider programme of transformation for Diabetic Eye Screening in Wales</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>Amber/Green</p>	<p>The work has commenced on scoping the online booking platform; however, Digital Services have informed this cannot be implemented in this FY due to lack of resource and other commitments. The second project which is an auto populated demographic look up for the e referral is underway and on track.</p> <p>28/05/25 Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status is green because the online booking platform can be scoped in this financial year, however, it would be the implementation that could not be delivered in this FY.

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk relates to the implementation rather than the scoping but is included as a high level risk
DP24 Smoking Cessation App	HMQ are looking to licence a smoking cessation app on a national basis to engage those who may initially be reticent to approach more formal NHS services.	SCOPING PHASE	N/A	Specification has been drafted and awaiting comments from Information Governance. Subject to IG comments, continue to engage with Procurement and progress to tender.
DP26 LIMS	Implementation of LIMS 2.0 system to replace WLIMS which goes out of support Dec 2025. Includes data migration from numerous legacy systems.	Amber	Amber	PHW have agreed to be the first to deploy in July for Cervical screening and microbiology. This is a national programme being delivered by DHCW and timelines are very tight. We are reliant on DHCW for provision of training and a cutover plan and unless these are delivered soon, our go-live may need to be moved back to October.
DP27 CANISC RePlatform	Implementation of new eForms on the Welsh Clinical Portal including cancer data sets and the colposcopy module, imaging repository	Amber/Green	Amber/Red	<p>Cancer - no change from March update - UAT continuing within the WCISU team testing the processing and user interface of the new cancer data within the registry system alongside other incoming data sources</p> <p>Key activities for this coming month are engagement with user and technical needs across both</p>

Project name	Description	April RAG	March RAG	Assurance Narrative
				platforms, and more detailed planning for the year ahead.
DP28 Infection Services & Genomics Added to Portfolio April 2025	Develop and implement a roadmap for Public Health Wales to transition to the use of cloud services for genomics, aligning this with the Genomics Partnership Wales digital blueprint and approach of other UK Public Health Agencies.	Green	N/A	This currently in early scoping stage. More information will be provided as it becomes available.