

 <b>GIG</b>   Iechyd Cyhoeddus CYMRU   Cymru <b>NHS</b>   Public Health WALES   Wales	<b>Name of Meeting</b> Knowledge, Research and Information Committee
	<b>Date of Meeting</b> 9 December 2025
	<b>Agenda item:</b> 2.5

<h2>Outcomes framework for Public Health Wales - Update</h2>				
<b>Executive lead:</b>		Iain Bell, Director of Research, Data and Digital Directorate		
<b>Author:</b>		Louisa Nolan, Head of Data Science; Alisha Davies, Head of Research and Evaluation		
<b>Approval/Scrutiny route:</b>		N/A		
<b>Purpose</b>				
To set out the current state of play of the outcomes measurement system, and what the next steps are.				
<b>Recommendation:</b>				
APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take assurance</b> progress with the Public Health Wales outcomes measurement system since June 2025.</li> </ul>				
<b>Link to Public Health Wales <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a></b>				
Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities and well-being objectives.				
This report contributes to the following:				
<b>Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective</b>		All Strategic Priorities/Well-being Objectives		



<b>Summary impact analysis</b>	
<b>Equality and Health Impact Assessment</b>	None required, the paper provides and update on the PHW outcomes measurement system, which is designed to reduce inequalities and health inequalities.
<b>Risk and Assurance</b>	There is a risk that factors outside the control of Public Health Wales will mean we are unable to achieve our ambition.
<b>Health and Care Standards</b>	All themes
<b>Financial implications</b>	Not Applicable
<b>People implications</b>	Will require awareness and understanding of our role in in improving public health outcomes

## Purpose

This paper sets out our progress with the Public Health Wales outcomes measurement system since June 2025.

## Background

Our measurement system is designed to assess how well we are delivering our strategic ambitions for improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities in the people of Wales in 2035. The system is intended to allow us to:

- Understand, monitor and evaluate our impact
- Drive prioritisation and decision-making
- Focus our resources
- Identify gaps in our delivery, including where we need to work with partners.

Further details of the measurement system can be found in the KRIC paper [Proposal for the system to measure the impact of delivering our strategic priorities](#) from June 2025.

## Progress since last time

There has been some significant progress on the measurement system programme since June 2025.

## Healthy life expectancy ambitions

In our IMTP, we set the ambition to have recovered healthy life expectancies (HLE) back to 2019 levels by 2035/6. In October 2025, BET also agreed the following ambitions:

- Decrease in the gap in HLE between the most and least deprived fifth of areas in Wales, for both females and males, compared with 2020-2022 (20 and 16 years respectively)
- HLE for females and males in the most deprived fifth of areas in Wales to return to pre-Covid (2018-2020) levels, 51.0 and 54.0 years respectively
- Deprivation fifths to be estimated using the latest Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation data and geographies available in 2035/36
- Healthy life expectancy to be estimated from ONS' Annual Population Survey and mortality statistics.

Exploratory work on understanding the fall in healthy life expectancy has been completed. Planning for a systematic assessment of the drivers of the fall in healthy life expectancy will take place on 26 November, and this will include a focus on the impact that increased waiting lists have had on self-reported health.

The latest healthy life expectancy data can be found in Annex 1.

## Outcome indicator reporting

Outcome indicators are now regularly reported to BET and Board, along with additional information on inequalities. Indicators on heat health impacts and early-stage cancer diagnosis have been added.

The latest outcome measurement report from the Board meeting on 27 November 2025 can be found in Section 4 (pp50 to 56) of [the PHW Board papers](#). A deep dive on the new indicators can be found on P 56.

## Use of the measurement system in planning and strategy

- We have improved our communication and engagement around the outcome measurement system. This includes:
- Regular updates to strategic priority leads, so they are kept up to date with the latest trends and data
- Workshops with strategic priority groups, to develop modelling, research and evaluation plans
- Embedding requirements for monitoring and measuring our impact into IMTP planning guidance for 2026/27 planning

## Outcome Evaluation - completed

As set out in the KRIC update on the R&E Strategy (December 2025), in the past 6 months, 5 evaluations have been completed and shared, informing programme development and investment in prevention. These are in the following strategic priorities:

### Promoting healthy behaviours

- Baseline formative evaluation of the Hapus National Conversation and Hapus Strategic Partnership, capturing baseline data on wellbeing which will be used for an outcome evaluation in 2026. The findings also informing programme development.
- Process evaluation of the Every Child Health Information Resource, which found barriers among families with learning difficulties and non-English speakers

### Sustainable health and care system

- Outcome evaluation of the All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme, informing funding to support investment in prevention of type 2 diabetes.
- Outcome evaluation of the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Prehab to Rehab programme, informing funding to support investment in prevention services to support rehabilitation post cancer surgery.

## **Excellent public health services**

- Outcome evaluation of the 2021/22 Flu/Covid vaccine using a controlled interrupted series design to examine impact on uptake.

### Outcome Evaluation - in development and underway

In addition, over the past 6 months, a further 7 evaluations have been developed and are underway:

## **Influencing the wider determinants**

- Process and outcome evaluation of Warm Wales support to families experiencing fuel poverty (funded by the Health Foundation programme).

## **Promoting healthy behaviours**

- Mid-point data collection to support the evaluation of the Hapus National Conversation and the Strategic Partnership
- Process and outcome evaluation of the Welsh Network for Health Promoting Schools

## **Sustainable health and care system**

- Outcome evaluation of the cell free DNA testing
- Process evaluation of the Test and Post and Community Testing Sexual Health Service
- Developing evaluation to support the Tackling Diabetes Together programme, focused on 2 areas;
  - Diabetic Eye Screening service change
  - Impact of a Behaviourally Informed Invitation Letter to Increase urine Albumin-Creatinine Ratio (ACR) Testing.

### Development of the modelling plan

Working with the strategic priority leads, we have an emerging plan for (i) policy and implementation modelling, and (ii) impact evaluation to support the measurement system.

## **Healthy life expectancy**

- Planning for systemic project to understand the fall in healthy life expectancy and strategies to reverse it. To include an assessment of the impact of growing waiting lists – in progress

## **Influencing the wider determinants of health**

- Discussions initiated with academic partners Our Future Health, HealthMod and SIPHER to explore the health impacts of worklessness
- Exploring the inclusion of quantitative analysis in health impact assessments

### **Promoting healthy behaviours**

- Modelling for weight-management drugs – in progress

### **Sustainable health and care system**

- Modelling for the Tackling Diabetes Together Programme
- Modelling to inform AWDPP scale and spread
- ABCD+ / hypertension quality improvement work
- Designed to Smile modelling

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- Impact of vaccination improvement work
- Potential to explore modelling, evaluation on winter preparedness, impact of health protection
- Screening linked to health outcomes, as part of the migration of analysis into the cloud (DARC Programme)

### **Public effects of climate change**

- Potential to look at falls, and heat-related A&E data as an indicator of climate change
- Projections of heat mortality and morbidity to make the case for shade adaptation

The next steps for the modelling plan are validation, and then an assessment and allocation of resources.

### **Challenges**

Progress has been made, but there is still more to do to complete the embedding of the measurement system into planning, prioritisation and decision-making across the organisation. Finalisation of the delivery plans for the routemaps, and of the IMTP for 2026/27, and working through the modelling and evaluation plans with strategic priority leads will support this. We also need to ensure that there is an effective prioritisation approach, and tolerance within the resources and teams available, to respond to in-year priorities and demands.

Access to suitable data can still sometimes be problematic, especially where primary care data is required. At present we can only access this via the SAIL Databank, which has a cost associated with it.

Resources are finite, and modelling and evaluation work will need to be scheduled to manage within the resources we have.

### Next Steps

- Building on the work we have already done to explore the factors associated with the fall in HLE, RDD are planning a longer-term project to further investigate the factors driving the fall in HLE and the increase in the deprivation gap, which will include a focus on waiting lists – scoping to be completed by end November 2025
- Continue working with strategic priority leads to develop the programme of policy and implementation modelling over the term of the strategy, and allocate resource – ongoing
- Continue working with strategic priority leads to develop the outcome evaluation programme for 2026/27, ensuring a focus on equity, and allocate resource – ongoing
- Collaborate across Executive Directors, Strategic and Programme Leads across Public Health Wales to
  - Identify programmes and interventions delivered by Public Health Wales that are expected to have an impact on health and equity. This will include
    - New programmes (e.g., lung screening)
    - Existing programmes (e.g., Help Me Quit)
  - Develop a forward looking, longer-term, strategically aligned outcome evaluation plan (rather than an annual cycle), prioritising areas to informing policy/action.
  - Ensure all new bids for investment in programme development include adequate resources for evaluation.
- Alignment of the performance indicators with the impact indicators, and gaps analysis – end December 2025

### Recommendation

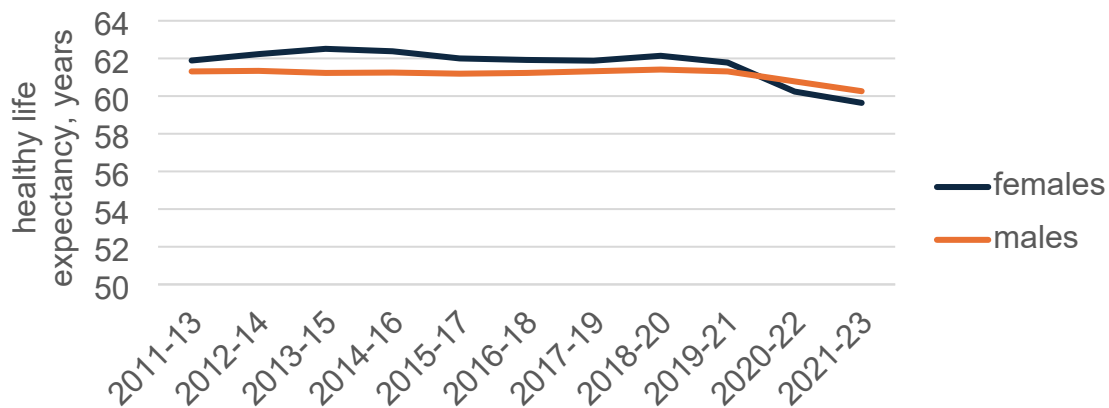
The Committee is asked to:

**Take assurance** progress with the Public Health Wales outcomes measurement system since June 2025.

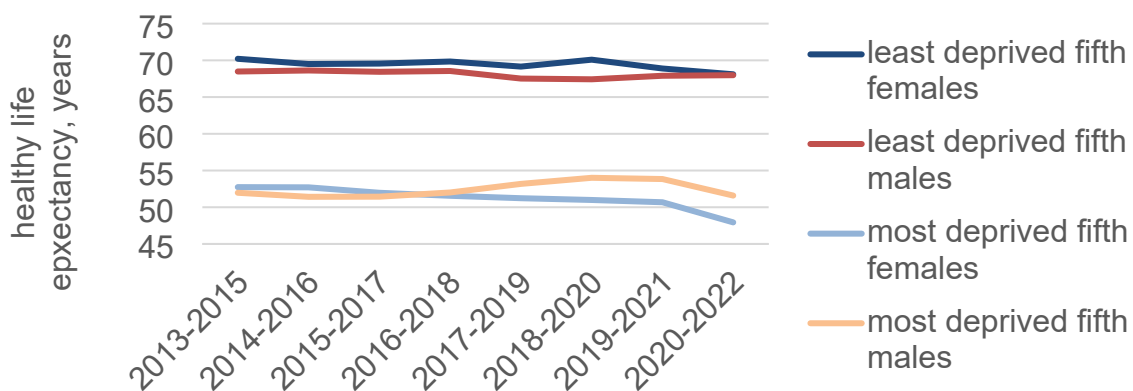
## Annex 1: healthy life expectancy in Wales

Healthy life expectancy at birth (HLE) is a measure of the number of years of good health that a person can expect to live. The latest estimates (figures 1 to 3, Public Health Outcomes Framework, PHW) show that in Wales:

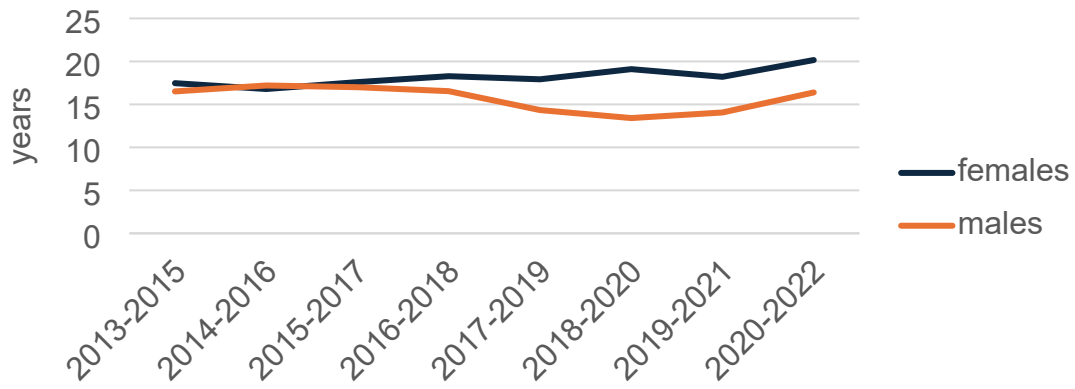
- In 2021-23, HLE fell for the third period in a row, for both males and females
- For females, it was 59.6 years, and for males it was 60.3 years. This is the second period for which healthy life expectancy is lower for females than for males.
- In 2020-22, the gap in HLE between those living in the most and least deprived fifth of areas was 20 years for females, the highest since 2013-15.
- In the same period, the gap was 16 years for males, for whom it has risen by 3 years since 2018-20.



**Figure 1: healthy life expectancy in Wales (source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, PHW)**



**Figure 2: healthy life expectancy in Wales, male and female, most and least deprivation fifth of areas (source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, PHW; Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Welsh Government)**



**Figure 3: gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived fifths of areas in Wales (source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, PHW; Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Welsh government)**