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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
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Public Health  
Wales

## Standard Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements for all Committees of the Board

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### 1. Introduction:

Public Health Wales' standing orders provide that "The Board may and, where directed by the Welsh Government must, appoint Committees either to undertake specific functions on the Board's behalf or to provide advice and assurance to the Board in the exercise of its functions. The Board's commitment to openness and transparency in the conduct of all its business extends equally to the work carried out on its behalf by committees".

In line with part 3 of the standing orders, the Board shall as a minimum nominate annually committees which cover the following aspects of Board business:

- Quality and Safety
- Audit
- Information Governance
- Remuneration and Terms of Service.

Each has its own committee with the exception of Information Governance. This subject area will be captured within the remit of the Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee.

This document includes content common to all committees and should be read alongside the specific terms of reference and operating arrangements for each committee.

**2. Authority:**

Each Committee is authorised by the Board to investigate or have investigated any activity (clinical and non-clinical) within its terms of reference. In doing so, the Committee shall have the right to inspect any books, records or documents of the Trust relevant to the Committee's remit, ensuring patient/client and staff confidentiality, as appropriate. It may seek relevant information from any:

- employee (and all employees are directed to co-operate with any reasonable request made by the Committee); and
- any other Committee, sub-committee or group set up by the Board to assist it in the delivery of its functions.

Each Committee is authorised by the Board to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers it necessary, in accordance with the Board's procurement, budgetary and other requirements.

**3. Sub-Committees and Groups**

Each Committee may, subject to the approval of the Board, establish sub-committees or groups to carry out on its behalf specific aspects of Committee business.

**4. Membership and Attendees:****4.1 Secretariat**

As determined by the Head of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary.

**4.2 Member Appointments**

- The membership of each Committee shall be determined by the Board, based on the recommendation of the Trust Chair - taking account of the balance of skills and expertise necessary to deliver each Committee's remit and subject to any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Government. The Board shall ensure succession planning arrangements are in place.

- Members shall be appointed to hold office for a period of one year at a time, up to a maximum of their term of office. During this time a member may resign or be removed by the Board. The Board should, as a matter of good practice, review the membership of each Committee every two years in order to ensure each Committee is continually refreshed whilst maintaining continuity.
- Committee members' terms and conditions of appointment, (including any remuneration and reimbursement) will be in accordance with their terms of appointment to the Trust. Where a member has been co-opted to fulfil a specific function and where they are not Non-Executive Directors or employees of the Trust this will be determined by the Board, based upon the recommendation of the Trust Chair and on the basis of advice from the Trust's Remuneration and Terms of Service Committee.

#### **4.3 Support to Committee Members**

The Board Secretary, on behalf of each Committee Chair, shall:

- Arrange the provision of advice and support to committee members on any aspect relating to the conduct of their role; and
- Ensure the provision of a programme of organisational development for Committee members as part of the overall Organisational Development programme developed by the Director of People and Organisational Development.

#### **4.4 Withdrawal of individuals in attendance**

Each Committee may ask any or all of those who normally attend but who are not members to withdraw to facilitate open and frank discussion of particular matters.

Members and attendees will also withdraw from the meeting, as appropriate, where there is a potential conflict of interest.

## **5. Relationships and accountabilities with the Board and its Committees/Groups:<sup>1</sup>**

Although the Board has delegated authority to the Committees for the exercise of certain functions, as set out within each Committee's terms of reference, it retains overall responsibility and accountability for ensuring the quality and safety of healthcare for its citizens through the effective governance of the organisation.

Each Committee is directly accountable to the Board for its performance in exercising the functions set out in each Committee's terms of reference.

Each Committee, through its Chair and members, shall work closely with the Board's other Committees, including joint (sub) committees and groups to provide advice and assurance to the Board through the:

- joint planning and co-ordination of Board and Committee business; and
- sharing of information.

In doing so, contributing to the integration of good governance across the organisation, ensuring that all sources of assurance are incorporated into the Board's overall risk and assurance framework.

- Each Committee shall embed the Trust's corporate standards, priorities and requirements, for example, equality and human rights through the conduct of its business.

## **6. Reporting and Assurance Arrangements:**

Each Committee Chair shall:

- bring to the Board's specific attention any significant matters under consideration by their Committee
- ensure appropriate escalation arrangements are in place to alert the Trust Chair, Chief Executive (and Accountable Officer) or Chairs of other relevant committees of any urgent or critical matters that may affect the operation and/or reputation of the Trust.

<sup>1</sup> Reference to the Board's Committees/Groups incorporates its sub committees, joint committees and joint sub committees as well as other groups, such as Task and Finish Groups, where this is appropriate to the remit of the Committee.

- report formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the Board on the Committee's activities. This includes verbal updates on activity, the submission of Committee minutes and written reports when appropriate, as well as the presentation of an annual report;

The Board may also require the Committee Chair to report upon the Committee's activities at public meetings, for example, the Annual General Meeting, or to community partners and other stakeholders, where this is considered appropriate. This could be where the Committee's assurance role relates to a joint or shared responsibility.

The Board Secretary, on behalf of the Board, shall oversee a process of regular and rigorous self assessment and evaluation of each Committee's performance and operation including that of any sub committees established and groups.