

Report of the Chief Executive

Board Meeting January 2020

1 Meetings with Minister for Health and Social Services and Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport

The Chairperson and I met with Vaughan Gething, Minister for Health and Social Services, on the 16 December 2019. We covered a range of items including:

- ❖ an update on *Building a Healthier Wales*
- ❖ *International Health Activities* which covered an update on the Memorandum of Understanding between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Welsh Government, and the associated workplan, and the bilateral relationships between us and the respective public health institutes in France (Santé publique France) and the Netherlands (RIVM) through the relationships in the International Association of National Public Health institutes (IANPHI)
- ❖ *Climate change*
- ❖ *EU Transition*

We will also provide him with a summary of the meetings that we had with other Ministers during 2019 in the next few weeks.

The Chairperson, Tom Porter (Consultant in Public Health in our Cardiff and Vale Local Public Health Team) and I met with Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport on the 13 January 2020. This was a follow up to the meeting that we had with the Deputy Minister on 6 August 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the potential roll out and evaluation of the active travel initiative that is being developed and implemented in the Cardiff area.

2 Executive to Executive Meeting with Public Health England

Our twice-yearly Executive to Executive meeting took place with Public Health England on the 10 January 2020. The items discussed at our meeting included:

- ❖ Update on EU Transition and Preparedness
- ❖ Cooperation on health security and other health surveillance issues post EU exit –national, UK, global
- ❖ Update on Behaviour Change Units

- ❖ Update on Collaborating Centres

3 Climate Change

Public and political awareness of climate change as a threat to the health of the planet is growing. In 2017, the Committee on Climate Change published its latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment including a summary report for Wales.

In April 2019, Welsh Government formally declared a climate emergency and in November 2019, published a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Wales, *Prosperity for all – a climate conscious Wales*.

Quentin Sandifer, Director of Public Health Services/Medical Director, chaired a roundtable meeting in November with representatives from Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales. The key issues that were discussed included the need for strengthening system leadership, the need to meet corporate responsibilities (for example, decarbonisation) as well as the need to respond to the challenges set out in the Welsh Government report.

Our Health Impact Assessment Unit (HIA) within our WHO Collaborating Centre is currently leading the development of a Climate Change Health Impact Assessment. This assessment will be unique in that it will utilise HIA methodology to identify the significant potential positive and negative impacts (direct and indirect) of climate change, the populations who may be affected and will highlight any potential opportunities for the future. It will assess how any impact may manifest itself over time, how this impact could be mitigated or maximised, and indicate strategic actions that could be implemented.

A Strategic Advisory Group has been established and two meetings have taken place so far. The members of the Group are drawn from a wide range of representatives including the Welsh Government (Head of Environmental Policy and Regulations, Head of Climate Change and Decarbonisation and the lead for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan), health boards, Welsh Local Government Association, third sector, HIA and academic representatives and RIVM (the Institute of Public Health in the Netherlands). The evidence gathering and appraisal phase has started and will be completed by the start of April 2020. As part of the HIA, we are also undertaking a national survey of public understanding of climate change and its relationship with public health as well as capturing existing population activities and future opportunities to tackle climate change. It is anticipated that the final report will be published in October 2020.

4 Update on the Tuberculosis (TB) Outbreak in Llwynhendy

A third round of screening took place in December 2019. This was specifically extended to include children and young people who may have been exposed to TB within specific settings in the Llwynhendy area. In previous rounds of screening only adults were invited although all children who attended for screening were tested. Some children are now undergoing further assessment.

5 IANPHI Annual Meeting – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On 3 December 2019, Dr Quentin Sandifer and I travelled to Ethiopia for the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) Annual Meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This is the annual gathering of all National Public Health Institutes to discuss public health issues of note globally and across the various Regions. The main focus of discussions were on health security, non-communicable diseases, cross sector collaborations and influencing policy through evidence.

During the meeting we met with colleagues from the French National Public Health Institute - Santé publique France (SpF). We have agreed that they will visit us in March as a bilateral meeting to discuss and share common areas and agree a number of actions to work together on.

6 Mid-Year Accountability – Health Boards and Local Public Health Teams

Mid-year accountability meetings have continued with health board Chief Executives and Directors of Public Health as part of our approach to the management and utilisation of the Local Public Health Teams. These continue to go well and the most recent meeting has been with Swansea Bay University Health Board.

7 Diversity and Inclusion Week

We held our second *Diversity and Inclusion Week* between the 6th to the 10th of January 2020. The week was designed to raise awareness and celebrate our diverse workforce and the communities that we serve. The week included daily speakers who engaged with us on the themes of Disability, Gender Identity, Cultural Competence and Homelessness. The events were well attended by staff across our different locations, who also took the opportunity to ask questions during the sessions as well as chatting with our guest speakers after their talks to learn more about how they can improve their understanding and practice.

On the 8 January we held a 'Rainbow Day' where we invited staff to wear bright clothes, rainbow lanyards and rainbow laces to show their support for LGBT+ colleagues. A cake sale was also held in Capital Quarter, with the proceeds going to a LGBT+ Charity which will be nominated by our Enfys Staff Network.

The week highlighted the continued improvement and wider engagement of the organisation as we become a more inclusive employer. This improvement was highlighted further during the week, as we received notification from Stonewall of our continued improvement in respect of their annual reporting of organisations across the UK. We will be able to provide more information on this when we have received the formal notification of our position at the end of January 2020.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive this information.