

Report of the Chief Executive

Board Meeting September 2019

1 Disability Confident Leaders

Public Health Wales was accredited as Disability Confident Leaders in July 2019. This is a National scheme run by the Department for Work and Pensions and has three levels: Committed (Level 1), Employer (Level 2) and Leader (Level 3).

We were able to provide evidence to the assessors on the many actions and initiatives we have put in place to improve the organisation to make us "Disability Confident". These include the setting up of our Disabled Staff Network, a review of our recruitment practices to make sure they are flexible and attractive to Disabled Candidates, training for all staff in the People and Organisational Development and Line Managers, introducing a Workplace Passport and working with agencies to develop a work placement scheme which will be introduced later this year.

We are currently developing our Strategic Equality Objectives for 2020 – 2024 and will be ensuring this work is embedded, built upon and monitored throughout this period, and beyond.

2 The National Health Protection Service

Public Health Wales has been discussing with Welsh Government and the NHS in Wales the necessary investment for and design of a model to strengthen current Health Protection arrangements in Wales. This has already attracted an uplift in Public Health Wales' funding allocation this year. In the context of global health security, it is recognised that a National Health Protection Service in Wales is needed to bring together and apply world class expertise, technology and behaviours to prevent disease, reduce the spread and minimise the impact of infection and environmental threats on individuals and communities in Wales.

Building on the current arrangements, the key features of the model include:

- ❖ a visible specialist infection service presence in every hospital supporting clinicians on the ward and in the community working with staff to minimise infection risk and patient harm

- ❖ a reconfigured microbiology laboratory establishment providing clinically focused diagnostic services, taking advantage of new technologies to deliver rapid (<4 hour turnaround) near-patient results and efficient comprehensive infection diagnostics and characterisation
- ❖ 'hot' diagnostic services (in all 16 acute hospitals) providing rapid (<4 hour) molecular facilities in all acute hospitals to provide testing for CSF, blood cultures, respiratory samples, norovirus, *C. difficile*, MRSA and carbapenamase producing organisms (CPO)
- ❖ consolidation of 'cold' diagnostics into two enhanced facilities providing comprehensive molecular testing, genomics, cultural bacteriology and one central laboratory providing 'hot' and 'cold' diagnostics as above plus Reference Laboratories, National Virology, and National Sexual Health services.

The successful delivery of this model will require a reconfigured, skilled, multi-disciplinary workforce. A Transformation Programme Board in the organisation is overseeing several work streams that include workforce development, clinical services, technology and system development, and stakeholder engagement and communications. A specification for the service is expected early in 2020.

3 Tuberculosis (TB) Outbreak in West Wales

The importance of strengthening health protection services in Wales is exemplified by the current response to the outbreak of TB centred on Llwynhendy in Carmarthenshire. Starting in 2010, this long-standing outbreak is now the subject of an intensive community screening campaign that started in June of this year and continued in the first half of September. More than 1500 people have been screened to-date. Laboratory testing and clinical assessment is ongoing and a final reconciliation of the results of the screening is not yet complete.

These actions, overseen by a multi-agency outbreak control team, will remain a priority for both Public Health Wales and Hywel Dda University Health Board over the coming weeks. The outbreak control team is consulting with experts from Public Health England on the next steps for the community screening campaign. In addition, both organisations are looking at their approach to the outbreak to-date as part of our collective commitment to continually improve the services we deliver and to strengthen health protection arrangements in Wales. This includes considering any additional actions that may of benefit to optimise learning.

4 Annual General Meeting 2019

The Public Health Wales Annual General Meeting (AGM) was a fantastic afternoon showcasing an exceptional year of achievement in 18/19.

It was held at the University of South Wales campus in Newport on Thursday 25 July. We had an audience of partners in public health, as well as two groups of young people ages 7 – 23 who we have worked with to produce this year's [Annual Quality Statement](#), [Young Persons Annual Quality Statement](#) and the [Children's Annual Quality Statement - Healthy Tales](#).

We also launched our new [Annual report](#) on the day.

Colleagues from Public Health Wales were also at the event, playing a huge part running the marketplace and joining the audience for the presentation and question and answer session.

5 Public Health Wales Young Ambassadors Programme

The Public Health Wales Board meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on July 2019, at which the Public Health Wales Young Ambassadors Programme was agreed and launched.

35 young people from a number of local authorities who support the programme development attended the AGM to meet Board members and partake in the celebration. The Public Health Wales AGM was a platform to launch the third Young Persons Annual Quality Statement and the first-ever 'Healthy Tales', a children's health orientated storybook written by children aged 7-10-year-old who also attended the AGM.

Shortly after the programme was launched, Public Health Wales worked with our young ambassadors to nominate Bethany Roberts (Pembrokeshire) to partake in the Future Generations Leadership Academy and represent both the Public Health Wales and our young ambassadors at the One Young World Summit which takes place in October 2019.

The Public Health Young Ambassadors Programme is underpinned by the ethos of empowerment, education and providing wide experiences based opportunities to our young ambassadors. To support this the first-ever four weeks paid internship successfully took place over August 2019.

Young Persons Annual Quality Statement:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/about-us/annual-report/young-persons-annual-quality-statement-2018-2019/>

Healthy Tales:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/about-us/annual-report/childrens-annual-quality-statement-2018-2019/>

6 Health Impact Assessment Workshop on the European Union Transition

On 13 August, Public Health Wales and Welsh Government jointly held a half-day workshop planned by Policy and International Health, WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being, to consider Wales's long-term strategy for health, well-being and sustainability post European Union Transition (Brexit).

The event was attended by 45 senior stakeholders from across health, social care and other sectors in Wales. These included Welsh Government, NHS and social care providers, Welsh Local Government Association and Health Education and Improvement Wales.

The purpose of the workshop was to look beyond the issues of today and work towards a shared perspective of the strategic challenges and opportunities that will face health, well-being and care in the future in order to consider how we can create a healthier destiny for Wales. The workshop also aimed to identify the choices Wales needs to make in the short, medium and long term to capture the opportunities and mitigate threats posed by Brexit and to also explore the steps organisations can take.

Participants used the findings from our Health Impact Assessment Support Unit's report on *The Public Health Implications of Brexit in Wales: A Health Impact Assessment Approach* and a Three Horizons futures model to explore and prioritise the potential impacts of Brexit on health and well-being in Wales and consider how they could take action on some of the shared challenges and opportunities identified.

Key themes discussed included workforce sustainability across health and social care, the importance of enhancing cross sector collaboration (for example on health and housing), the links between health and economic development, ensuring that Wales remains attractive for research and development investment and engagement in the development of future trade policy in order to influence the determinants of health.

At the end of the workshop there was a commitment to continue to work together and develop new ways of working in order to optimise the

achievement of good health, well-being and sustainability post Brexit in the long term.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to **receive** this information.