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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
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Public Health  
Wales

**Name of Meeting**

Board

**Date of Meeting**

26 September 2019

**Agenda item:**

6.2.260919

## Public Health Wales' EU Transition Preparedness Update.

**Executive lead:** Quentin Sandifer, Executive Director of Public Health Services

**Author:** Nathan Jones, Programme Manager

**Approval/Scrutiny route:** Executive Director of Public Health Services

**Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Board with an update in relation to the work Public Health Wales is undertaking as part of our Brexit preparedness. The paper also provides an update against the work that we have been doing on behalf of the wider system, along with our internal preparedness.

**Recommendation:**

APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Public Health Wales Board is asked to:

- Receive **assurance** on Public Health Wales' Brexit preparedness progress and arrangements.

**Link to Public Health Wales [Strategic Plan](#)**

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
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**Summary impact analysis**

<b>Equality and Health Impact Assessment</b>	N/A
<b>Risk and Assurance</b>	Risk identified on the Corporate Risk Register.
<b>Health and Care Standards</b>	This report supports and/or takes into account the <a href="#">Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales</a> Quality Themes  All themes
<b>Financial implications</b>	Financial implications are being actively managed through the programme management arrangements.
<b>People implications</b>	A key element of the Brexit Programme has been to ensure staff have been provided with relevant information and supported as required.

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Board with an update in relation to the work Public Health Wales is undertaking as part of our Brexit preparedness. The paper also provides an update against the work that we have been doing on behalf of the wider system, along with our internal preparedness.

## 2. Background

Public Health Wales established a formal programme to manage its Brexit preparedness in October 2018. The Programme is responsible for the full range of activity being undertaken by Public Health Wales and in support of the wider health and social care system. The main focus of the work has been on ensuring:

- We have robust business continuity arrangements in place for our critical services and are able to effectively respond to any incidents, particularly in the event of a 'no-deal'.
- We have appropriate mitigation in place, on behalf of the wider system, for the key health protections risks
- We develop key policy and research to help inform and stimulate consideration of the longer-term implications of Brexit for the people of Wales.
- We support and provide clear information to our staff in relation to Brexit and its implications.

Significant preparatory work was undertaken within each of these areas in the run up to 31 March 2019, which has previously been reported to the Board, via regular updates to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.

Following the extension of Article 50 to 31 October 2019, we reviewed the work that we had undertaken to date and our programme arrangements to ensure they were robust. As a result of this review, we made a number of changes, including:

- Identifying a single Senior Responsible Officer to oversee our preparedness (the Executive Director of Public Health Services / Medical Director, Dr Quentin Sandifer)
- Refreshing our programme governance and plan arrangements
- Developing a 'no-deal' organisational activation plan and supporting communications plan.

Public Health Wales also participates actively in wider system preparedness led by Welsh Government.

### **3. Programme Update**

#### **3.1 Business Continuity and Emergency Planning**

As part of our preparedness for a potential 'no-deal' Brexit, we undertook an assessment of our critical services. For each of these, we have held specific business continuity exercises and put in place, where required, arrangements to ensure maintenance of critical supplies/consumables. In advance of 31 October 2019, we are refreshing this work, including holding a second set of exercises and updating our Business Continuity Plans for each of our services.

We have been working to further strengthen our internal arrangements to ensure our ability to respond to any potential public health incidents. This has included significant training of staff to fulfil key roles within our organisational Emergency Response Plan.

#### **3.2 Health Security**

Public Health Wales has led, on behalf of Welsh Government, work to ensure appropriate assurance is in place for the key health protection (health securities) risks relating to a potential 'no-deal'. This work has been undertaken in partnership with Public Health England and other Four Nations public health partners. We held a system wide exercise around our health protection preparedness in March 2019 and will be holding an additional session in October 2019.

#### **3.3 Longer-Term Implications**

Following the publication of 'The Public Health Implications of Brexit in Wales: A Health Impact Assessment Approach', we have undertaken work, in partnership with Welsh Government, bringing together a range of stakeholders to consider the potential longer-term implications of Brexit. Work has also been undertaken to update, where relevant, the original Health Impact Assessment.

#### **3.4 Our Staff**

Regular communication has taken place with staff across Public Health Wales to ensure they are provided with the latest information as it becomes available, along with updates on our preparedness. In particular, this involved sharing key information on the Settled Status Scheme and sign-posting staff to the support available. We have also held a series of 'drop-in' sessions to provide staff with an opportunity to discuss any concerns that they had.

#### **4. Recommendation**

The Public Health Wales Board is asked to note the significant progress made in relation to Public Health Wales Brexit preparedness, as set out in section 3, and receive **assurance** on the arrangements being put in place in advance of 31 October 2019.