

Report of the Chief Executive

Board Meeting November

1 Welsh Public Health Conference

Over the two days, more than 800 delegates attended this year's Welsh Public Health Conference at the International Conference Centre in Newport on 17 and 18 October. The theme this year, '*Building a Healthier Wales*' provided an opportunity to focus on the drivers of health and well-being that go beyond health care to contribute to a healthier Wales and a healthier global community.

Vaughan Gething, Minister for Health and Social Services, opened the conference and we were delighted that he took the opportunity to launch the Welsh Government *Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales Strategy* at the event. In addition to the main keynote from Dr Chris Brown of the World Health Organization, the content included 50 posters, 36 Lightning Talks, 18 Spotlight sessions, 3 'Think-a-Thon Challenges' and a very special opening act delivered by Cardiff's Fluidity Freerun Academy.

Over two days, participants from across a wide range of sectors (health, housing, education, employment, police and criminal justice, national and local government, transport) created a fantastic atmosphere of learning and sharing, networking, discussing and generating solutions to help build a healthier Wales.

The event showcased the latest research, highlighted examples of what is working well in Wales and internationally and opened challenging, constructive dialogue about what needs to happen to move from ideas to action on key issues including environmental health, health inequalities and wider determinants like housing and employment.

I would like to thank all of our staff who participated throughout the conference and to our communications and support teams – especially Leah Morantz, Head of Communications, and Allison Pinney-Colis, Communications Manager, who designed and organised a very successful conference.

2 Work with Asylum Seekers and Refugees Recognised

A team from Public Health Wales has been recognised for their work helping to understand how asylum seekers and refugees interact with the health service in Wales.

Dr Gill Richardson, Lauren Couzens and Rebecca Fogarty formed the team from Public Health Wales' International Health Coordination Centre and

worked in collaboration with researchers from Swansea University, to produce the report: *The Health Experiences of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Wales (HEAR)*. The work also involved teams from The British Red Cross, Displaced People in Action, Welsh Refugee Council and Ethnic Youth Support Team.

The report examined the healthcare experiences of adult asylum seekers and refugees in Wales and included the views and experiences of both the healthcare recipients and the providers of that care.

It is recognised that this is a particularly difficult population group to reach. A major challenge that needed to be overcome was making sure that the community was at ease with the researchers and there was no language barrier. To this end, the team trained and supported eight researchers from the sanctuary seeking community to engage with other members of the community.

The team was awarded the Health and Care Research Wales' Public Involvement Achievement Award 2019 and a poster based on the work won third place in the poster competition held during the Royal College of General Practitioners annual conference. Funding for the report came from Public Health Wales' Research and Development Practitioner Development Scheme.

For an executive summary of the study click [HERE](#)
To read the whole technical report, click [HERE](#)

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

Midyear 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 meetings have been with Aneurin Bevan and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Boards. The remaining Health Boards are in the diary in the coming months.

4 European Health Forum Gastein 2019: A healthy dose of disruption? Transformative change for health and societal well-being

The European Health Forum Gastein, organised by the International Forum Gastein, took place from 2-4 October 2019 in Gastein, Austria.

The conference brought together, politicians, senior decision-makers, representatives of interest groups, and experts in the field of public health and healthcare to discuss topical aspects of improving health across the European Union Region.

I was invited to join the World Health Organization (WHO) Europe Venice Office's panel at the Forum showcasing different country approaches to 'Changing the game on health inequalities'. This is as part of the relationship that we have with the WHO Venice Office as part of our WHO Collaborating Centre and the developing Memorandum of Understanding between Welsh Government and the WHO. I joined a panel with Ministers from other member States including Slovenia, Armenia and Estonia.

5 Joint Executive Meeting with Welsh Government

On Friday 1 November, a Joint Executive Team accountability meeting with Welsh Government took place. The meeting was part of the formal accountability relationship between Welsh Government and Public Health Wales and formed the mid-year accountability review for the organisation.

The meeting covered the in-year performance delivery including the challenges and achievements that have taken place during the year. It was a very constructive and positive meeting with a considerable amount of the time discussing our system leadership role and future strategic focus.

6 Review of quality governance arrangements - Cwm Taf Morgannwg –University Health Board

The Health Inspectorate Wales and Wales Audit Office report of the Review of Quality Governance Arrangements within Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board was published on 19 November 2019. The review includes 14 recommendations for the health board some of which are transferable for other organisations to consider. The Minister for Health and Social Services has requested that all NHS bodies undertake a self-assessment against the review recommendations within their own organisations for completion in January 2019.

The Executive will undertake the self-assessment and the Board will consider this in advance of the submission.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive this information.