

Report of the Chief Executive

Board Meeting May 2020

1 Public Health Protection Response Plan and the Welsh Government's Test Trace Protect Strategy

On the 22 April 2020, the Chief Medical Officer wrote to the Chief Executive asking Public Health Wales to urgently develop a *Public Health Protection Response Plan* in order to provide expert public health advice to help inform the Welsh Government's approach as the country moves towards and into the Recovery phase of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

A team of our expert staff developed the draft Plan in a very tight timeframe and it was submitted to the Welsh Government on the 29 April. Public Health Wales was then asked by the Welsh Government to consult with health boards, local authorities and other partners on the draft Plan. This took place from the 29 April to the 1 May inclusive. During the weekend of the 2 May, all of the feedback from the consultation was considered and the draft Plan was amended to reflect the valuable contributions. The final version of the *Public Health Protection Response Plan* was then submitted to the Welsh Government on the 4 May 2020. The Board was involved throughout the development of the Plan.

On the 13 May 2020, the Welsh Government published the *Test Trace Protect Strategy* which outlines the approach in Wales as the social restrictions are relaxed moving into the Recovery phase. The Strategy was informed by the *Public Health Protection Response Plan*. The Plan was published by us on the 21 May 2020.

I would like to express my thanks to all of our expert team who worked incessantly over a tight timeframe to produce such a high quality *Public Health Protection Response Plan* for Wales. The commitment of our people to paving the way in protecting the public as we move into the Recovery phase has been yet another example of the expert response that the whole organisation has shown through the phases of the pandemic for which we are extremely grateful.

2 Public Health Wales' Implementation Plan for the Test Trace Protect Strategy

Following the issuing of the *Public Health Protection Response Plan* by the Welsh Government to health boards and local authorities, the Welsh Government established a weekly Public Protection Strategic Advisory Group that is now overseeing the implementation of the *Test Trace Protect Strategy*.

Each Region (based on a health board footprint) has produced an Operational Plan for the implementation of the Strategy (informed by the *Public Health Protection Response Plan*) and Public Health Wales has considered each of the regional operation plans to inform the Public Health Wales Implementation Plan. This is front-ended with the critical timeline up until the 8 June 2020 as stage 1, and stage 2, which will cover the until the end of August and through 2020, will be concluded by the 4 June 2020. The Implementation Plan is on the Board agenda for discussion.

3 National Weekly Meetings

I thought it would be helpful for the Board to have an understanding of the various weekly all-Wales COVID-19 weekly meetings that are taking place that we are actively involved in. This does not include our daily 'battle rhythm' in managing the incident (which includes meetings with Welsh Government and the four nations national public health institutes) or the many weekly operational meetings that take place with members of our team and the NHS, social care, Welsh Government and other partners regarding specific issue COVID-19 related items. The regular weekly all Wales meetings include the following:

❖ *Meetings with the Minister for Health and Social Services*

- Monday weekly *Test Trace Protect Programme* meeting with the Minister involving representation from local resilience forums, health boards and local authorities, Welsh Local Government Association and the third sector
- Wednesday weekly meeting with the Minister, Welsh Government officials and NHS Chairs and Chief Executives

❖ *Meetings with Welsh Government (other)*

Numerous meetings take place with Welsh Government through the week the regularised meetings include:

- Twice weekly meetings with NHS Chief Executives, Director General for Health and Social Services/Chief Executive NHS Wales and Welsh Government officials
- Weekly *Public Protection Strategic Oversight Group* meetings involving Chief Executives from local authorities, the NHS, Welsh

Local Government Association, the military and Welsh Government officials. In addition, there are a series of sub-groups supporting this Group, two of which are co-chaired between Welsh Government and Public Health Wales

- Twice weekly catch ups with the Chief Medical Officer and his officials
- Weekly COVID-19 Test Plan Task and Finish Group Meeting
- Weekly COVID-19 Planning and Response Group
- Weekly Technical Advisory Cell meetings
- ❖ *Weekly Public Protection Strategic Oversight Group* this is chaired by Public Health Wales and involves local resilience forum chairs, NHS representation and Welsh Government officials
- ❖ *Weekly meeting with NHS Chief Executives.*

4 Summary of Public Health Wales' Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In advance of moving into the Recovery phase of the pandemic, we are in the process of collating a summary of the Public Health Wales' response to the coronavirus pandemic to date. This will capture the key timeline, key decisions and progress in the development of our operational model through the phases, challenges and learning. The intention is for this to be available for the next formal Board meeting.

Recommendation

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