



 <p>GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales</p>	<p>Name of Meeting Board Date of Meeting 28 March 2024 Agenda item: 4.2</p>
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Our Decarbonisation and Sustainability Plan	
Executive lead:	Huw George, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director of Operations and Finance
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Approval/Scrutiny route:	Climate Change Programme Board – 20 February 2024 Executive Team – 20 March 2024 Public Health Wales Board Meeting – 27 March 2024
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Purpose
<p>Public Health Wales is required to update and refresh its Decarbonisation Action Plan every two years. This plan, is the successor to the organisations first plan, approved by the Public Health Wales Board in 2022 and outlines the work the organisation will be undertaking over the next two years and beyond to meet the NHS Wales target of net zero and for Public Health Wales to meet its carbon negative objective by 2035 as set out in the Public Health Wales Long Term Strategy.</p> <p>The plan is required to be submitted to Welsh Government alongside the Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) 2024-2027 and high level actions within this plan have been reflected in the IMTP to ensure there is alignment between the two plans.</p>

Recommendation:				
<p>APPROVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ASSURANCE <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>The Board is asked to:</p> <p>Approve the Public Health Wales Decarbonisation and Sustainability Plan 2024-26.</p>				



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:

Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	6- Tackling the public health effects of climate change
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	Choose an item.
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	Choose an item.

Summary impact analysis

Equality and Health Impact Assessment	An Equality or Health Impact Assessment is not required however may be undertaken for specific milestones detailed within the plan.
Risk and Assurance	Risks and issues are included within the plan and outlined in section 4 below.
Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act	The plan focuses on actions that will aid continual improvement of public health services and outcomes as we reduce our carbon footprint and embed the changes. Progress of improvements will also be actively monitored as the plan progresses and updates shared on a public facing website page for transparency of information, contributing to our Duty of Quality.
Financial implications	The plan has been developed with the assumption that it can be delivered within existing resources however delivery of some milestones may lead to additional funding being required in the future.
People implications	Specific actions will be led and delivered by various teams within Public Health Wales. However, in order to achieve our net zero targets, it will require behaviour change of all our staff if we are to achieve the goals within our Long Term Strategy.



1. Purpose / situation

Public Health Wales is required to update and refresh its Decarbonisation Action Plan every two years. This plan is the successor to the organisation's first plan, which was approved by the Public Health Wales Board in 2022. It outlines the work the organisation will be undertaking over the next two years and beyond to meet the public sector target of net zero and for Public Health Wales to meet its carbon negative objective target by 2035 as set out in the Public Health Wales Long Term Strategy.

The plan is required to be submitted to Welsh Government alongside the Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) 2024-2027 and high level actions within this plan have been reflected in the IMTP to ensure alignment between the two plans.

Since 2021, work has been underway across Public Health Wales and the wider health system to respond to the climate emergency. Our action plan sets out how we plan to address the climate emergency in Wales through reducing Public Health Wales' carbon footprint (the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere).

Due to the overlap between decarbonisation, foundational and circular economy, biodiversity and our role in implementing the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the plan also includes actions that contribute to these sustainability agendas.

2. Background and approach

During 2021/2022, Public Health Wales commissioned external resource to support the development of the organisation's first Decarbonisation Action Plan. The Health and Sustainability Hub engaged with staff across the organisation to inform the plan development and this was approved in March 2022.

Building on learning from the development of the first plan, this version of the Decarbonisation and Sustainability Action Plan 2024-26 has been developed internally, led by a Decarbonisation Action Working Group.

Work commenced in September 2023 and has involved significant engagement with staff, including sessions at the staff conference, Green Advocates Staff Network, division and team sessions, Business and Planning Leads and suggestions through the Simply Do platform and decarbonisation whiteboard, which have been incorporated into the new plan where appropriate.

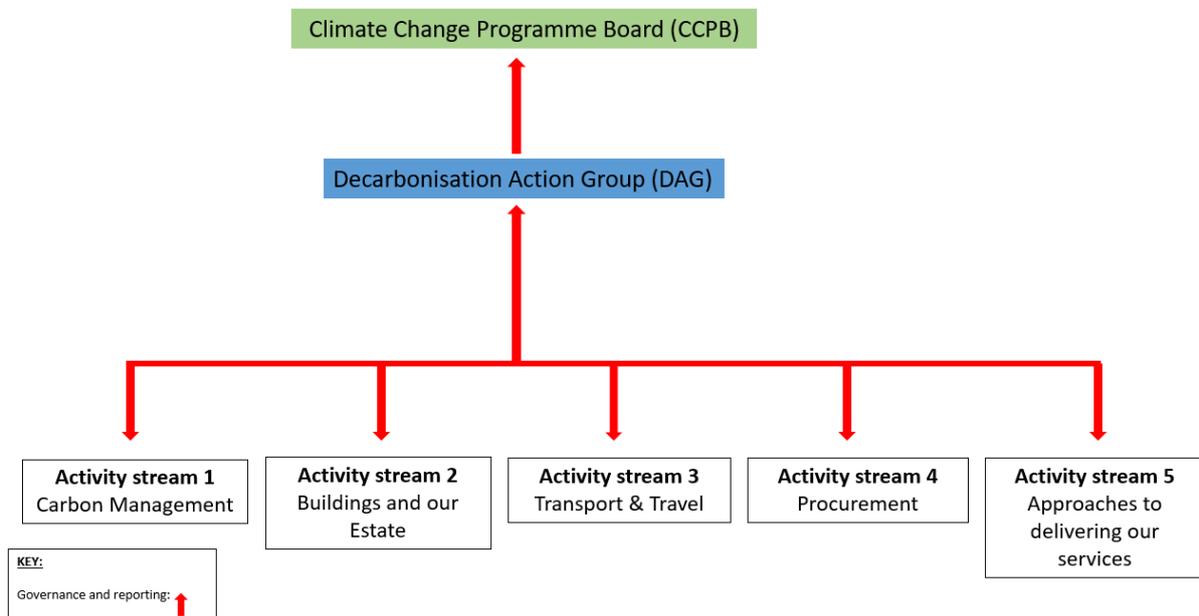
In addition, we have been monitoring progress of actions within our current plan, incorporating those which have not been delivered within the original timescales

and ensuring our plan aligns with the relevant milestones within the NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan.

3. Managing the Public Health Wales Decarbonisation and Sustainability Plan 2024-26

A Climate Change Programme Board was established in 2022 to oversee all action related to climate change and decarbonisation, as well as manage the new strategic priority on climate change in our Long Term Strategy 2023-2035. The decarbonisation work stream has been formed and, over the course of 2023/24, Public Health Wales has invested in a Programme Manager to review and develop a proposal for improved governance arrangements which will come into effect on 1 April 2024. This includes identifying a lead for each of the five activity streams set out in the plan and development of the Public Health Wales Climate Change Community of Practice that launched on 22 January 2024 to enable staff across the organisation involved in the delivery of our climate change agenda to come together and share learning and best practice.

The diagram below outlines the governance structure for decarbonisation within Public Health Wales.



We have also worked with the Strategy and Planning Division to align reporting on the plan with the IMTP reporting and request for change process to allow for integration into the performance report and dashboards as required. This will ensure the Executive Team and Board are sighted on progress and updates will be included within the Climate Change section of the Public Health Wales Performance Report.

4. Risks and Issues

Our plan highlights a number of risks and issues (see page 26) associated with delivery of this plan. Risks and issues will be managed within the relevant activity streams as part of the overall programme management approach. Key risks include:

- Not achieving the actions set out in the Decarbonisation Action Plan due to insufficient capacity across the organisation.
- Insufficient understanding of the financial implications to deliver the Decarbonisation Action Plan.
- Understanding the true organisational position in relation to achieving net zero as we are unable to calculate the carbon emissions for all our activity. This may result in the organisation not achieving the net zero target by 2030.

Actions to mitigate the risks as far as possible are included within our action plan.

3.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG Act) (2015) means that Public Health Wales and other public bodies, must strive for a sustainable Wales. This means thinking more about the long-term, working better with people of Wales, with each other and with our communities to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

The WFG Act remains pivotal to helping us to work towards a Wales where people live longer, healthier lives and where all people have fair and equal access to the things that lead to good health and well-being, now and for future generations.

Our health and well-being depend upon a healthy environment, which includes using our natural resources in a sustainable way and supporting our biodiversity. Climate Change is considered one of the greatest global challenges and requires innovation and collaboration to ensure the well-being of the future generations in Wales. Identifying opportunities and actions to reduce carbon emissions within our day-to-day activities will help us take action on climate change that will help bring about direct improvements for public health and health equity.

As an organisation we have embraced the Sustainable Development Principles and when making decisions we take into account the impact it could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. Public health Wales will continue to apply the Five Ways of Working through the development and delivery of our Decarbonisation and Sustainability Action Plan:

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Long Term

Identifying where we can add value through action that supports positive outcomes in the long term, both for current and future generations. Our plan also outlines the outcomes we intend to achieve over the next 10 years.



Focusing on preventative action and supporting others to do the same, support a sustainable primary and community care system and prevent emission levels from increasing to reduce our impact on climate change to help prevent future health problems.



Identifying how the Decarbonisation plan objectives will contribute to multiple well-being goals. Considering how the plan supports other objectives and our Long-Term Strategy and how they may impact on each other's organisational and well-being objectives.



Collaborating with all parts of the organisation and working with partner organisations and the supply chain to reduce carbon emissions and identify how we can help meet each other's objectives.



Involving and engaging staff from across the organisation to help develop the plan and incorporating the views of our stakeholders.

5. Recommendation and next steps

The Board is asked to **approve** the Public Health Wales Decarbonisation and Sustainability Plan 2024-26.

Subject to approval, our plan will be published on the Public Health Wales webpages and a communication plan is under development to ensure all staff are aware of our plan aligned with the road map for climate change. The governance arrangements and reporting processes will be implemented from 01 April 2024 onwards.