

Public Health Wales Annual General Meeting – Questions submitted to the Board

	Question	Theme	Exec Lead	Response
1	<p>I have noticed that some children are not enjoying PT lessons in school. Is there a way to incorporate yoga and Pilates into school curriculum as a way to address obesity and musculoskeletal problems in the future? I have noticed that quite often the teachers are not allowing the children to move around the class which leads to back pain. It would be great if there were some recommendations for schools regarding moving around the class or some movement breaks incorporated. Are there any ways to address this?</p>	Healthy Schools	Jim McManus	<p>Yoga and Pilates are unlikely to meet the threshold for moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) needed to address obesity. However, they can still play a valuable role in improving posture, flexibility, and musculoskeletal health.</p> <p>Developing physical health and well-being is a mandatory part of the curriculum in Wales, and schools are encouraged to adopt a whole-school approach through the Welsh Network of Health and Well-being Promoting Schools. Additionally, the Daily Active approach, which is being rolled out across Wales, supports integrating movement into classroom learning. This is achieved through active lessons and movement breaks, which can help reduce sedentary time and associated back pain. Teachers are encouraged to create environments that support movement throughout the day, not just during PE.</p> <p>New national standards for health and well-being promoting schools are currently in development. These standards are intended to further support schools in identifying learner needs and embedding physical activity across the school day. We will feed this helpful question into that process, but we cannot guarantee the outcome as it is controlled by the Welsh Government.</p>

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2	<p>I have noticed that patients who came to the UK after the age of 15 are not being offered the HPV vaccine despite the fact that they are eligible till the age of 25. Is there a way that someone can monitor the patients who missed their vaccination but still eligible according to their age? If these patients were offered the vaccine, it would reduce the number of cervical cancer cases.</p>	<p>HPV Vaccinations</p>	<p>Tom Fowler/ Meng Khaw</p>	<p>It is crucial to ensure that as many young people as possible, both boys and girls, are vaccinated against HPV to reduce their chances of developing cancers, including cervical cancer, later in life.</p> <p>HPV is primarily administered in schools during Year 8 (age 12/13) by the school nursing services in the Health Boards. These services should check the vaccination status of children and actively offer any missing vaccines. Additionally, eligible young people can also get vaccinated by their GP if they miss their dose or are home-schooled. GPs should also check vaccine status upon first registration.</p> <p>Childhood vaccines, including those given in schools, are recorded on the Children and Young Persons Integrated System (CYPrIS). Child Health offices in Wales archive these records between the ages of 18 and 24, making it challenging to check the vaccine status of young people after they leave school. We also know that catch-up doses delivered by GPs or doses administered outside Wales are not always recorded on CYPrIS. The older the person is or the later they arrive in Wales, the more likely it is that data will be missing from their record. This makes it difficult for the young person or their care provider to know which vaccines they have had or are missing.</p>



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				<p>As part of delivering the National Immunisation Framework for Wales, Public Health Wales are supporting Digital Health and Care Wales to develop a lifetime vaccine registry. This new system will improve the data transfer between systems, reduce the amount of missing data and allow more robust understanding of who is missing vaccines and how we can ensure they are offered them.</p>
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3	<p>UK NSC recommends HPV self-sampling option for under-screened women in cervical screening programme. When is HPV self-sampling going to be available in Wales?</p> <p>Is it possible to start offering walk-in HPV screenings in GP surgeries and breast clinics?</p> <p>Some patients find it difficult to schedule and come for a separate HPV appointment. If walk-in screening was available it would raise the coverage of the screening as patients could do their HPV screening right after seeing a GP.</p> <p>If HPV screenings were available in breast clinics it would be very efficient to do both female screenings the same day.</p>	Screening	Tom Fowler/ Meng Khaw	<p>PHW will be introducing self-sampling for under-screened individuals as part of the cervical screening programme in mid-2026. In line with the UKNSC (National Screening Committee) recommendation, we will be offering this to those who rarely or never engage with screening. Eligible individuals are routinely invited for cervical screening every 5 years.</p> <p>This 5-year interval is based on UKNSC recommendations that are supported by scientific evidence. Cervical Screening Wales (CSW - part of Public Health Wales) manages the invitations for screening to ensure individuals are invited on time but not more often than is necessary. Invitations for screening are shared with GP practices for this purpose.</p> <p>The collection of cervical screening samples requires specialised training. The quality of the sample is highly dependent on the expertise and training of the healthcare professional taking the sample. This training helps to ensure that samples contain sufficient high-quality cells to examine if the HPV test is positive. It is important to note that self-sampling will only allow for HPV testing, and a further sample collected by a trained healthcare professional will be needed if cells need examination.</p>

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				<p>At present, breast screening staff are not trained to perform cervical screening. Breast screening is primarily delivered through bespoke mobile units which are not designed for other activities, unlike GP practices where the necessary space and equipment are standard.</p>
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4	<p>There is no lung screening available in Wales. It is available in England, why are lung check ups not available in Wales?</p> <p>The lung check ups are desperately needed in Wales. My friend's mom died from lung cancer when she was 58. She had no symptoms. If she had a lung checkup at 55 she would have lived. It is time to start lung screening in Wales to catch lung cancer early.</p>	Lung Cancer Screening	Tom Fowler/ Meng Khaw	<p>Thank you for raising this very important question and sending condolences for the loss of a loved one from lung cancer. Lung cancer screening is a priority for Public Health Wales.</p> <p>In June 2025, the Welsh Government confirmed its commitment to a lung cancer screening programme in Wales, which will be provided equitably and consistently across the country. This decision was informed by a scoping project requested by the Welsh Government and undertaken by Public Health Wales during 2024-25. The project reviewed the available evidence and set out a series of recommendations regarding the pathway and delivery model, including costs and timeframes. This was informed by the learning from a successful operational pilot of lung cancer screening delivered between 2023-24 in the North Rhondda area and the two evaluation reports that have been published.</p> <p>As lung cancer screening will represent the introduction of a significant new national screening programme, implementation will require careful planning and time to deliver, to ensure that each part of the pathway can be delivered safely and effectively. Public Health Wales is taking forward the planning for the implementation of this screening programme, which is evidenced to reduce mortality through the early detection of lung cancer.</p>

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				<p>This approach will be designed to ensure that lung cancer screening will be delivered to a high quality, equitably across Wales, and will be sustainable in the long term, ultimately saving lives.</p>
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5	<p>Why doctors are not suggesting routine HIV testing for sexually active patients? If are not suggesting HIV testing, how would a patient know that they need testing if they had unprotected sex? UK has a plan to stop new cases for HIV by 2030, Which requires more testing. Not everyone has courage and knowledge to get tested at sexual health clinics</p>	Sexual Health / Testing	Tom Fowler/ Meng Khaw	<p>As part of the HIV Action Plan for Wales, there has been work to raise awareness of HIV amongst healthcare professionals, providing the information in both English and Welsh.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Short animations added to the electronic staff record system. ❖ Training for healthcare professionals by the Terrence Higgins Trust. ❖ The upcoming HIV Confident / Building a world that welcomes and respects. ❖ Feedback provided as part of the late diagnosis cohort review, which explores any missed opportunities and addresses training as a result. ❖ Flyers explaining HIV testing and indicator conditions sent to all GP practices in February 2024. ❖ Presentations at GP training events specifically on BBVs and the importance of offering testing. ❖ The Text for Testing project, which is underway and should have messages from GP practices in the Autumn advising people to test. GPs are currently being engaged in this project, raising awareness of testing for HIV. <p>HIV testing is available in Wales through the PHW-run sexual health Test and Post service without attending sexual health</p>

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				<p>clinics. For those who are digitally enabled, testing can be accessed through our online platform.</p> <p>Separately, community kits are being made available through services so that people who do not want tests delivered to their home address or do not have digital access can access testing without visiting a clinic. A number of GP practices are involved in the provision of community kits along with community pharmacies and other community venues (e.g., libraries and hubs).</p>
6	<p>Can I please ask what our position is on ultra processed foods? These foods are increasingly linked to all the diseases/conditions we are trying to influence but there is no mention of them in any of our plans.</p>	<p>Processed Food</p>	<p>Jim McManus</p>	<p>Public Health Wales has control over aspects such as promoting healthy eating in schools and supporting the Welsh Government in consultations.</p> <p>Recently, this collaboration resulted in new regulations for healthy school food, which will be implemented shortly.</p> <p>Additionally, we can advise on the Welsh Government's decision to regulate the sales of high-fat and high-sugar goods, set to take effect next year.</p> <p>Furthermore, efforts are being made to address the commercial determinants of health by working with commercial outlets on product re-formulation.</p>

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				<p>However, certain areas fall outside of our remit, such as the fact that much of the food supply comes from outside of Wales. Therefore, a collaborative approach with the other nations of the UK is necessary for initiatives like re-formulation. We emphasize the extensive ongoing work and the importance of advising the government and collaborating with the UK. We are committed to continuing this work and welcome further discussions on the matter.</p>
7	<p>What is the eligibility for Covid Vaccinations in Wales, is it the same eligibility criteria across Wales?</p>		<p>Tom Fowler & Tracey Cooper</p>	<p>The eligibility criteria for COVID-19 vaccinations are consistent across Wales. While the implementation of vaccines is managed by the Health Boards, the eligibility criteria are approved annually by a UK vaccination group. This ensures a standardized approach to vaccine eligibility, providing equitable access to vaccinations for all eligible individuals in Wales.</p>
8	<p>What I've heard this afternoon is that you plan 10 years ahead and you rely completely on your people. How do you work with colleges, universities and apprenticeships in Wales to ensure there is going to be a source for workers in 10 years time?</p>		<p>Iain Bell</p>	<p>We have been working diligently to strengthen our links with universities and academic public health institutions in Wales. One of our key initiatives is to make research in Wales a powerhouse, co-producing quality work and securing funding in collaboration with universities. Additionally, we are focused on developing and delivering the public health training programme to prepare the workforce of the future.</p> <p>Recognising that public health in the future will require a diverse skill set, we are exploring ways to integrate digital</p>

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				<p>workers into our organisation to acquire these necessary skills. Recently, we have invested in apprenticeships and are working to enhance our apprenticeship offerings, with plans to implement these improvements in the coming year.</p> <p>Our links with universities encompass both teaching, training, and research. We have numerous colleagues who maintain close ties with academia and hold honorary Chair positions at Bangor, Aberystwyth, Swansea, and Cardiff Universities.</p> <p>In terms of workforce training, our team predominantly consists of biomedical scientists and medical staff, and we are actively engaged with all the universities that provide this training. We support the physician associate assistant training in Bangor and Swansea, as well as medical training in Cardiff, Swansea, and the new postgraduate training in Bangor. We are keen to be involved in these areas because we believe in developing our workforce locally, as individuals tend to stay where they train.</p> <p>Additionally, the recruitment for our new University Non-Executive Director is ongoing, and we hope to appoint someone by the end of the year, which will make a significant difference.</p>
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Q&A session from 2hours and 11mins: [Public Health Wales AGM 2025 Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru - YouTube](#)