



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

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| Directorate: | Health Protection and Screening Services Directorate |
| Executive Lead: | Meng Khaw |
| Reporting Month: | March 2026 (retrospective February – forward look March) |
| Business Executive Team Meeting Date: | 18 March 2026 |
| Board Meeting Date: | 26 March 2026 |

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Protection Division

- Tuberculosis infection screening cost analysis for priority groups progressed to final reporting stage.
- Sexual Health outreach engaged with 2,540 individuals across 15 events and delivered four training sessions.
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (MMRV) training and public facing materials published; annual teenage immunisation report issued. Annual teenage immunisations report published.
- Paper on UK tick surveillance 2021-2024 with UK Health Security Agency, Public Health Scotland accepted. Contributed to Epidemiology of Food Infections Group biannual meeting.
- Continued engagement with Infectious Intestinal Disease research project including report writing.

Infection Services Division

- Completion of the tender specification for the new Diagnostic Sexual Health Service tender.
- Review and evaluation of the Culture Media Tender procurement.
- Closed 97% United Kingdom Accreditation Service non-conformances.
- Cryptosporidium reference unit collaborating with UK Health Security Agency to improve capture and scope results in second generation surveillance system.

Screening Division

- Prepared detailed Key Performance Indicators improvement plans and Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee assurance papers for Bowel, Breast and Diabetic Eye Screening.

- Letter to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Chief Executive on constraints around assessment waits to reduce backlog and improve flexibility of pathway and improve resilience in line with other regions.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Finalising arrangements for the Major Incident and Pandemic Response Arrangements Event Scheduled for March 2026.
- Continued engagement with Welsh Government to finalise Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Countermeasures Arrangements for Wales.
- Continued positive engagement through recent Digital Health Protection Project workshops.
- Engagement in a review of the Wales Gold Strategic Stakeholder Workshop.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Collaborative work with Infection Services and RLDatix to build a e-job planning template.
- Clinical Governance discussions held with Public Health Scotland colleagues.
- Annual education commissioning 1st draft finalised for regulated professions.
- Internal job planning audit conducted related to compliance levels.
- Scoping work commenced related to pan-Wales clinical governance rapid audit led by Deputy Medical Director.
- Follow up meeting hosted with members of Joint Medical and Dental Negotiating Committee (JMDNC) and Director of Infection Services to discuss JMDNC concerns regarding Physician Associate appointments in Microbiology Services.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: Presentation of programme at the Festival of Genomics was well received and had good feedback.
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme (HARP): Publication of Infection Prevention Control Quality Statement to health boards.
- HARP: ICNET Clinical Surveillance Platform comms are drafted and currently awaiting review with digital colleagues.

Successes

Health Protection Division

- Successful webinar for the changes to the childhood schedule and the introduction of MMRV with over 400 people in attendance.
- Survey disseminated to Arabic speaking community in Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) to enable co-production of Arabic language leaflet – pilot project in collaboration with SBUHB, first co-production of minority language resource by Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme.
- Publication of the Data Mining Report.
- Three team members presented at the Research and Evaluation Conference on Tuberculosis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus & Burden of Lung Disease.
- Completion of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Inequalities audit data collection.

Infection Services Division

- Successful genomic sequencing of the North Wales Mpox isolates which provided evidence of sustained community transmission.
- Retained accreditation (Pending turn-over of remaining non-conformances).
- Closure of Salmonella typhi investigation by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) with no written enforcement. Learning outcomes shared with non Public Health Wales laboratories also experiencing exposures and HSE investigation.

Screening Division

- Establishment of Screening Division Workforce Review and Re-design group.
- Breast Test Wales - Reading waits recovered in North; Assessment waits improved in South and West. Additional clinics being planned in North Wales, funded by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- COVID Learning series released to staff.
- Finalised the PHW Exercise PEGASUS Debrief Report.
- Concluded a review of the DRAFT Public Health Wales (PHW) Pandemic Response Arrangements using the debrief report.
- Successfully reviewed and updated of the PHW Emergency Response Plan.
- Joint participation in a Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Exercise (Rosa) and contribution to the debrief following a COMAH Exercise (Stikstof) - both in South Wales.
- Successfully supported delivery of 'Lead Officer' Training, providing EPRR awareness.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Nothing additional to report that is not already included in the report.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: Approval of funding for a new MiSeq sequencer to reduce costs.
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme (HARP): MEDUSA Phase 1 making progress with agreement with key metrics and functioning requirements being reached.

Any Concerns Being Managed

Health Protection Division

- Incident Management Team (IMT) in place for Sexual Health Service.
- Ongoing challenges with determining accurate uptake of flu vaccination in staff and school children, due to challenges moving to WIS for reporting.
- Welsh Immunisation Management System (WIMS) delayed by another 2 to 4 weeks due to an issue with infrastructure requirements.

Infection Services Division

- Preparedness of the labs ahead of TrakCare Lab Enterprise (TCLe) go live.
- Workflows have highlighted increased staff time / additional Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) steps required which are a concern.
- Replacement of University Hospital Llandough (UHL) and Singleton autoclaves as end of life – no progress to date.
- Timelines to progress sealability work by end of financial year.

- Autoclave fragility at UHL and Bangor sites.
- Gas manifold replacement overdue at Bronglais General Hospital, Hywel Dda University Health Board estates managing works.
- Maintenance contract for capital equipment within Cryptosporidium reference unit seeking resolution.

Screening Division

- Breast Screening Mobile – Executive IMT will cover all issues, with mitigations in place.
- Staff capacity in North region Breast Screening – impact of surgical constraints on recovery of backlog for assessments.
- Colonoscopy waiting times - letters sent to Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Delay to LIMs implementation.
- Projected divisional overspend position for 25/26 - financial controls in place.
- National Breast Screening System (NBSS) strategy for England – need to consider impacts and way forward for BTW. Helpful update on England approach.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Short-notice requests to support system preparedness being monitored. Risk of delay in delivery of internal workplans.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Continuing to manage the recommendations and implementation plan relating to Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) review into public health speciality training.
- Resident Doctor Contract reform activities – OOHs rota review, pay impact forecasting, medical & dental versus Agenda for Change salary impacts.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP): Audit+ remains an issue, but the lifecycle has been extended due to an appropriate replacement not being available yet.
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme (HARP): Effects of the financial position on programme delivery - need for better financial arrangements and alignment of budgets.
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme (HPIP): Programme left without Programme Management support since January.

Forward Look of Key Activities for Next Month

Health Protection Division

- Online World Tuberculosis Day scheduled for March.
- Evidence review requested on Vaccine equity improving initiatives to inform Vaccine equity toolkit.

Infection Services Division

- Sealability works and efficacy studies in University Hospital Wales (UHW) Containment Level 3 laboratories.
- Two electrical outage exercises within Cardiff Health Board sites (UHW and UHL)
- Health & Safety Executive site visit at UHW for Brucella melitensis exposure.

- Glangwili General Hospital (GGH) gas manifolds due replacement in March
- Recruitment of senior admin officer at Toxoplasma Reference Unit
- Agreeing Cryptosporidium molecular epidemiology outputs with Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and UK Health Security Agency.

Screening Division

- Progressing implementation planning of National Lung Cancer Screening Programme.
- Resolution of issues with breast screening mobiles - dust and water.
- Progressing project on Self Sampling for underserved population for cervical screening.
- Internal Audit on participant pathway in Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme and Diabetic Eye Screening Wales.
- Breast Screening Review – one to one discussion; focus groups and survey – review documentation expected early Spring.
- Wales Audit on cancer screening programmes – follow up on previous audit – self assessment being completed.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Work ongoing with International Association of National Public Health Institutes on Public Health Agency of Canada project.
- Finalise arrangements to delivery of phase two of the community workshops linked to the Inequalities in EPRR project in Q1 2026/27.
- Engagement with and participation in Capabilities Days in South Wales and North Wales Local Resilience Forum areas; and the Gwent Local Resilience Forum Warning & Informing Event.
- Delivery of Exercise ANADL - the Major Incident and Pandemic Response Arrangements Event Scheduled for March.
- Contribution to the Mosaic Mapping and Gap Analysis Workshop.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Initial preparation for Public Health Skills Framework Workshop working in collaboration with People and Organisational Development (POD).
- Resident Doctor Contract Reform Implementation Group activities.
- Working with Nursing, Quality & Integrated Governance (NQIG) on professional training needs analysis.
- First meeting of Internal implementation group relating to HEIW report and recommendations.
- New Clinical Excellence Group (OMD and NQIG) discussions.
- OMD/POD leading the commissioning of an OOHs rota review for HP led by the Medical Workforce Director in Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Health Protection Inequalities Programme (HPIP): Meetings scheduled with HPIP representatives to inform future planning.
- Genomics: Hosting of Health Protection Oversight Group Genomics Subgroup at Canolfan Iechyd Genomig Cymru.



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

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| Directorate: | Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance |
| Executive Lead: | Claire Birchall, Executive Director |
| Reporting Month: | January and February 2026 |
| Business Executive Team Meeting Date: | 18 th March 2026 |
| Board Meeting Date: | 26 th March 2026 |

Overview of Key Activities During the Month(s):

Public Health Wales' Duty of Quality annual report 2025/25: was published in January 2026 and can be accessed [here](#). The report pulled together our achievements and ambitions across the quality agenda. Public Health Wales puts quality and experience at the heart of everything it does as an organisation, and this year's report highlights that ongoing commitment to quality in line with our responsibilities within the Duty of Quality.

Integrated Governance: taking forward the decision-making agenda following a meeting of the Leadership Forum in January 2026. This will assist the organisation in operationalising the delegation of authority framework.

Information Governance: worked with the SIRO and colleagues from across Public Health Wales to finalise and agree Terms of Reference for the Information Security Board.

Information Governance: refreshed and reconvened the Information Governance Forum.

Information Governance: following much discussion with users and Information Asset Owners (IAO), the Information Governance Service (IGS) is making some changes to the DPIA1 and 2 forms. The new forms were available from Monday 2nd Feb and amended to provide greater clarity for the users, particularly to support decision making and the risk assessment, and the DPIA2 now also includes a short section to cover any proposed use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

[Changes to Data Protection Impact Assessment Forms Feb26](#)

Risk Management: commenced rotational deep dives of strategic risk articulation and action plans at Business Executive Team.

National Safeguarding Service: developing the 2026/27 Work Plan, in collaboration with the NHS Wales' Safeguarding Network, in preparation for Executive Directors of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer, Welsh Government ratification.

National Safeguarding Service: facilitated a national learning event on 24th February 'Trusted to Safeguard'; a multi-agency conference to progress development of NHS Wales guidance for all employees in managing safeguarding allegations. Keynote speaker, Jan Pickles OBE.

Successes:

Armed Forces Covenant: as proud supporters of the Armed Forces Community, Public Health Wales were delighted to confirm that the Employee Recognition Scheme Gold Award has been retained until 2030. By signing the Armed Forces Covenant, Public Health Wales committed to supporting the Armed Forces Community; Serving Regular and Reservist Personnel, Veterans and their families, and provided the opportunity to be recognised by the [Employer Recognition Scheme](#) award. The Scheme allows the Ministry of Defence to publicly thank, honour and acknowledge those employers that provide exceptional support to the Armed Forces Community, by going above and beyond their [covenant pledges](#). The organisation first achieved its Bronze award in 2018 progressing through to Silver in 2019 and Gold in 2020.

The King's New Year's Honours': Public Health Wales was delighted with the announcement that Caroline Whittaker, RRC, retired Professional Lead, Nursing Midwifery and Standards Manager, was awarded an MBE in the King's New Year's Honours' list for services to nursing and voluntary work. Caroline's work at Public Health Wales included providing expert leadership on professional standards, quality improvement and workforce development, helping to ensure safe, effective and compassionate care for the people of Wales. A news-story celebrating this event can be found [here](#).

Nursing and Midwifery Leadership programme: the Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance Directorate, in collaboration with the Royal Collage of Nursing (RCN), delivered a bespoke Nursing and Midwifery Leadership Development Programme, which was delivered over 10 days across a six-month period; the final session was held on 23 February. This was the first time the programme had been delivered designed specifically for the unique context of public health. The aim was to cultivate a new generation of confident, compassionate, and strategic nursing and midwifery leaders within Public Health Wales, capable of shaping the future of public health through a nursing and midwifery lens. Fifteen nurses and midwives successfully completed the programme and following the success of this inaugural cohort, there is an ambition to run the programme again.

Trusted to Safeguard: this learning event on 24 February, welcomed 70 multi-agency attendees representing police, health, local authorities and the third sector. Feedback on the day was overwhelmingly positive, with participants valuing the balance of national review learning, psychological insight and practical system discussion. The event also provided six hours of Level 3 (Group C) safeguarding training, contributing to gold-standard multi-agency learning opportunities in Wales. The rich workshop discussions will now be used to strengthen the National Safeguarding Service's NHS Wales guidance on managing practitioners and those in positions of trust, ensuring a safe, fair and consistent approach to risk assessment, safe employment and staff wellbeing.

Any Concerns being managed:

Sexual Health IMT and Directorate Impact: the impact of the Sexual Health incident on NQIG Nursing services, in particular the corporate safeguarding nurse, National Safeguarding Service and the Nurse Retention lead post, the PTR and IG teams and their associated workstreams.

Forward Look of key activities for next month:

Public Health Wales' Nursing and Midwifery Conference: planning has commenced for the conference in May 2026 and will continue throughout February and March.

Listening to People Regulations: preparations are in hand, including reviewing Public Health Wales' promotional materials, in respect of the new Regulations which will come into being on 1st April 2026.

Health and Care Quality Standards: peer reviews will commence.

Quality Impact Assessment: the PHW Quality Impact Assessment (QIA) tool has now been through the testing phase, proposal for the tool and process go through the Quality Organisational Group in March 2026 and the Business Executive Team in May 2026 for approval prior to implementation.

Integrated Governance: working with the Public Health Wales' Business and Planning Leads, will commence a baseline assessment of Standard Operating Procedures.

Information Governance: implementation of revised and simplified Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) procedure to improve efficiency and enable earlier appropriate information governance support.

Risk Management: implementing improvements to the maintenance update and scrutiny of the Corporate Risk Register. Development of SRR7 - Finance

National Safeguarding Service: Lead the MDT lookback exercise in Sexual Health. NSS are recognising safeguarding excellence across NHS Wales by hosting a Safeguarding Celebration Event on 18th March 2026. The high volume of excellent quality nominations were judged by a panel of NHS Wales senior leaders. Finalists have been notified and will join this 'first' for Safeguarding NHS Wales event.



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

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| Directorate: | Operations and Finance |
| Executive Lead: | Angela Williams |
| Reporting Month: | January – February 2026 |
| Business Executive Team Meeting Date: | 18 March 2026 |
| Board Meeting Date: | 26 March 2026 |

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Communications

- We implemented a 12-week cross-channel communications plan supporting policy advocacy activity in the lead-up to the pre-election period.
- The team developed and delivered a clear communications plan in response to issues identified in the Sexual Health Test and Post Service.
- This period saw the delivery of five focus groups across Wales, engaging around 60 staff with support from facilitators in Ops & Finance.
- We proactively communicated major changes to the childhood vaccination schedule, ensuring clarity for both parents and professionals. The announcement secured strong broadcast, online and print coverage, supported by more than 700 public reactions to our digital content.

Finance and Performance

- Draft financial plan to support delivery of our IMTP 2026-2029 complete.
- Supported interim audit testing as part of the 2025/26 annual accounts process
- Submitted 2024/25 annual costing returns
- During January and February, responsibility for process improvements was shared across the Systems team, with automation work on Staff Sheets via Power Automate and further automation work underway on accruals, prepayments, and budget journals.

Estates and Health & Safety

- As part of the North Wales Estates programme, completed signing of the lease for Seasons House, Ewloe lease enabling fit out works to commence.
- Work successfully completed on the fit out of the joint Multifaitth Room / Mother's room / Mindfulness space on the 5th floor at CQ2.
- Continued progression and conclusion of a number of capital schemes of work and Welsh Government Targeted Estates funded capital works (TEF) across the estate.

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs

- Led the preparations for Public Health Wales' Accountability Meeting, including key documentation, briefings and support to Board members,

- Development of our approach to managing benefits through pilot work with Digital Health Protection Programme and engagement with the All Wales Benefits group
- Facilitated BET and Board workshops on draft Strategic Plan for 2026/27, including a deep dive on feasibility, financial plans and refreshed portfolio of change
- Facilitated cross organisational capital planning workshop to support the development of Capital Plan 2026-28
- Undertook a Gate 0 assurance review on DESW Transformation Programme.

Successes

Communications

- Delivered a staff-led redesign for the Staff Intranet page, built from focus group insights, survey feedback and data from SharePoint analytics. Early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Our most recent 'Time with Tracey' session attracted 258 attendees — more than double the usual numbers. Issuing calendar invites to the whole organisation has significantly improved visibility and accessibility.
- Our no-cost winter prevention campaign (led and delivered buy our in-house team) significantly outperformed expectations. Organic social content achieved 228k views — more than triple last year — and generated four times the level of public engagement.
- To increase visibility of the Healthy Planet work programme, the team developed a flooding awareness campaign using a compelling personal story and clear, practical advice. The campaign achieved high-profile media coverage and boosted both staff and public awareness of climate-related health risks.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Launch of the new desk and room booking system Booking Buddy to support building utilisation arrangements.

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs:

- Showcasing of change programmes in PPM Community of Practice
- Team members successful completed Change Management APM and
- Managing Successful Programmes as part of our programme and project
- management job families' developments.

Any Concerns being managed:

Communications

- We continue to support the active communications response around the Sexual Health Test and Post Service to ensure stakeholders remain informed and confident as the situation progresses.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Currently assessing the financial implications of the newly published NHS Wales cleaning standards – this work is being undertaken in conjunction with colleagues from Nursing Quality and Integrated Governance (NQIG).
- Currently addressing some technical challenges re support being experienced with the recently launched desk and room booking system *Booking Buddy*.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Communications

- Next month includes two major priorities: the Website BETA launch — ensuring clear messaging, staff readiness and user testing — and early planning for the Staff Conference, including shaping themes, designing the audience experience and coordinating leadership contribution.

Finance and Performance

- Complete Financial plan, Budget Strategy and Minimum Dataset to support organisation's strategic plan for 2026-2029.
- Deliver yearend breakeven position to meet our statutory duty.
- Produce year end accounts and submit draft version to Audit Wales
- Finalise performance framework review and proposal to support improved approach from 2026/27.
- Developing a new strategic risk to be added to Strategic Risk Register in relation to financial sustainability to better understand and mitigate this risk.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Completion of relocation of staff from Preswylfa office wrexham to the recently refurbished Seasons House Ewloe.
- Achieving re-accreditation of the ISO14001 environmental standard. This is particularly important as the scope of the estate's accreditation has extended this year to include Secerning Services screening venues in the North, South and West of Wales in addition to the previously accredited administrative estate.
- Work will commence on the development of cleaning specification informed by the newly published NHS Wales Cleaning Standards

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs

- Undertaken rapid lessons learned process on Accountability Meeting to inform future approaches
- Final version of Strategic Plan for 2026/27 submitted to BET and Board for approval (before being submitted to Welsh Government by 31 March 2026).
- Co-delivered session on NHS Wales planning cycle with WG Planning Team and Health Board colleagues, highlighting best practice to senior members across WG and NHS Wales.
- Launch of Benefits realisation steering group in March.
- Continuing programme mobilisation support for Future Workforce Solution.



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

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| Directorate: | People & Organisational Development |
| Executive Lead: | Neil Lewis |
| Reporting Month: | January/February |
| Business Executive Team Meeting Date: | 18 March 2026 |
| Board Meeting Date: | 26 March 2026 |

Overview of Key Activities During January and February

- Our Gender Pay Gap 2025 and Annual Equality and Workforce Report were signed off by People and OD Committee. These reports provide an overview of our equality work between April 2024 and March 2025. For 2025, our gender pay gap has decreased from 14.5% to 13.6%.
- We provided an update to the People and OD Committee on the progress of the IMTP deliverable to develop a systemic programme of work which will increase leadership and management skills, capacity and confidence.
- A presentation was also provided to the People and Organisational Development Committee, on how we will be using the results of our Culture Pulse Survey to build a stronger, more inclusive and constructive culture.
- Key campaigns and awareness days were marked during January and February, including LGBTQ+ History Month, Men's Mental Health, Chinese New Year, Ramadan and Wythnos y Gymraeg (Welsh Week).
- Cohort 7 of our Leadership and Management Academy programme has commenced and we have held a Deep Dive for all Academy members on 'How do we take well-intentioned policy and convert it into meaningful change?'
- We have launched our first Leadership Community of Practice Action Learning Set.
- We commenced a project to enhance our development and support for our People Managers and create a People Manager Fundamentals Programme
- We have been supporting the DHSC review of the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework.
- Submitted our draft education commissioning numbers to HEIW.
- Celebrated National Apprenticeship Week.
- Wythnos y Gymraeg / Welsh Language Week took place between 23 –27 February with various online activities taking place. This year's events will continue into March when we will welcome Alun Saunders, a comedian, drag performer, writer and dad from Neath, into CQ2 (Room 3.0) between 9.45am – 11.30am for a quiz, raffle and chat on 24 March.

- Welsh translation - At the end of February, 4,710 Welsh translation requests have been administered via our Welsh Translation Request Portal - a total of nearly 4.4 million words.
- Continued implementation of the DBS Update Service project, with 385 staff now subscribed to the live Update service, and a further 249 staff yet to subscribe (as at 09 March 2026).
- Engagement with Job Matchers and review of manager survey feedback, leading to a focused Job Evaluation improvement action plan.
- Lower recruitment activity across the organisation, with increased focus in some directorates on strengthening bank worker capacity to further reduce agency reliance.
- The NHS Wales Staff Survey has recently finished the user testing period. Results should be shared within the organisation by the end of March 2026. Staff Survey results will be discussed with the Strategic Executive Team Meeting on 11 March.
- Over the last 2 months, we have continued to run Wellbeing Workshops for people managers and colleagues, supporting their ability to foster positive wellbeing within their teams. In addition, we piloted a wellbeing session for our Men's Network (the first time this workshop has been delivered within a Network setting).
- A recent speaker event took place focused on burnout, offering education on recognising early signs and practical tools to reduce risk. The speaker specialises in the recognition, prevention, and management of burnout and other workplace-related mental health challenges.
- We have begun scoping work to implement Wellbeing Champions, along with appropriate learning and development to support these colleagues, designed to enhance their confidence, knowledge, and practical capability to improve wellbeing, reduce stress, and contribute to sustained cultural improvement. A Wellbeing Champion Network will be created to provide ongoing peer support.
- Workforce Planning cycle has been progressing well, POD Partners and the WFP Lead have been working closely with Directorate teams throughout October–December to complete the workforce planning toolkits and develop SMART actions to address workforce challenges and opportunities. This year's Workforce Planning activity forms a core component of the IMTP and financial planning process, with refinement sessions taking place across January and organisational themes now being analysed. Throughout January and February we have also been developing our product output for this year's workforce planning process – report, slide deck and a visual.
- Significant change activity underway, with the POD Partners supporting a range of consultations either recently concluded or in progress across HPSS, Strategy & Planning, Web Transformation and the Infection Division—several involving formal OCPs and changes to working models or patterns.
- Improvement initiatives progressing, including development of the new 'Speaking Up Safely' tool within Screening, seeing the PD Partners

working in collaboration with POD Ops, Comms and wider colleagues, with potential for wider organisational rollout.

- DARC Programme – The POD Partner is leading the people work-stream for the DARC Programme, a major change initiative supporting the migration of data to cloud services. To develop a skills, training and learning matrix to ensure affected staff are appropriately upskilled.

Successes

- Our Staff Network groups have grown over the last 6 months and, as of January 2026, 34% of our staff are part of one of our 7 networks.

Any Concerns being managed:

Forward Look of key activities for next month

- Targeted follow-up with directorates to accelerate DBS Update Service compliance by 31 March.
- We will launch the new format New Colleague Networking Event.
- The next Leadership Community of Practice event will take place in April with an exciting external speaker sharing their leadership journey.
- Leadership and Management Academy Deep Dive number 7 will be held.
- Planning of policy reviews will commence on a number of People and OD policies, e.g. Learning and Development and My Contribution policies.
- National Leadership and Management Framework (NLMF) - We are awaiting the launch details/date of the England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales' developed NLMF. Having undertaken our own approach to a Leadership and Management Framework ahead of any talk of a national piece of work, we are pleased our that our Framework has influenced and is reflected in the national work.
- Delivery of Job Matcher Refresher Training (02 April) as part of JE improvement actions.
- Ongoing support to directorates to expand bank workforce capacity and reduce agency dependency.
- Welsh Language Group members will co-ordinate their Directorate's annual Welsh Language Standards reporting templates for 2025/26 for submission to the Welsh Language Team by 13 March. The templates ensure the Welsh Language Team have information from each Directorate across Public Health Wales and NHS Performance and Improvement when reporting on the last financial year to the Welsh Language Commissioner and Welsh Government.



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

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| Directorate: | Policy and International Health |
| Executive Lead: | Sumina Azam |
| Reporting Month: | January to April 2026 (M10-M01) |
| Business Executive Team Meeting Date: | 18 March 2026 |
| Board Meeting Date: | 26 March 2026 |

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

Launch and awareness activities for the HIA Guides for Practice and HIA Regulations

The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) has published two practical guides to assist with the upcoming HIA Regulations: 1. public bodies in undertaking statutory Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) in Wales, and 2. those who wish to carry out voluntary HIAs and highlight best practice to support and complement the statutory guide. [Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) guide and resources - Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit.](#)

The WHIASU team have also presented a lunch and learn awareness raising session to Public Health Wales staff, to highlight the HIA process, the upcoming HIA regulations and what this means for Public Health Wales, held the annual spatial planning and health event focusing on 'planning and nature' and published an innovative journal paper on the 'HIA of the use of Safer Inhalation Devices'.

Policy Training

The Polisi team delivered two training sessions for colleagues across PHW to strengthen their ability to influence and communicate effectively with policymakers. By developing understanding and confidence in policy advocacy and skills to present evidence clearly and frame messages strategically, the training enabled colleagues to build stronger relationships with decision-makers, influence policy discussions, and position PHW as a trusted voice in shaping health priorities aligned with our long-term strategy.

Framework to increase our coherence and impact on health inequalities:

A framework has been developed by a cross-organisational group as part of PHW's organisational approach to health inequalities. It complements the previously published narrative and provides a practical tool to help teams consistently consider health inequalities within strategic approaches.

Well-being Economics and Value (WEAVE) Team and Programme Launched

The Well-being Economics and Value (WEAVE) team applies health economics, modelling and social value to support investment in prevention towards building well-being economies in Wales and globally. The hybrid launch event on 12 February brought together nearly 100 participants from academia, practice and policy nationally and internationally. Some of our key partners, Welsh Government, WHO, the Welsh NHS Confederation and Health Boards, presented and highlighted the essential work of the team around knowledge mobilisation, advancing economic thinking and modelling, developing capacity and novel tools, and income generation. The team is already supporting a growing portfolio including work on prevention spend, immunisation, tobacco control, tuberculosis, healthy high streets, well-being and foundational economies.

6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

Climate Change Programme Governance:

Since its establishment in September 2022, the Climate Change Programme Board (CCPB) has played a key role in shaping Public Health Wales' long-term approach to climate change, including developing and overseeing delivery through the Route Maps. To enable this, a revised structure of CCPB has been introduced, with three subgroups to strengthen collaboration, improve implementation, and maximise impact.

The CCPB retained overall responsibility for strategic oversight, risk management, governance and reporting, supported by the new subgroups. The subgroups have now been established to lead delivery across: (1) Climate Surveillance, Research and Evaluation; (2) internal organisational sustainability, decarbonisation and capacity building; and (3) external partnerships focused on climate mitigation, adaptation, environmental public health and health inequalities. All subgroups are required to report bimonthly to the CCPB on progress, risks, resource needs, dependencies, and decisions or opportunities.

Leadership Academy Deep Dive Session on Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

The Health & Sustainability Hub delivered a deep dive session as part of the PHW Leadership & Management Academy on "How do we take well intentioned policy and convert it into meaningful change? Examples of enacting the 5 Ways of Working (5WOW) from Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFGA) (2015)". The 5WOW was linked to the Leadership and Management framework and how ways of working are practical leadership behaviours that strengthen decision-making, culture, and accountability.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

Organised and overseen by the IHCC, Henk Hilderink, Foresight Expert from the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), delivered 2 three-hour introductory workshops on Strategic Foresight technology in Cardiff to both PHW staff and stakeholders on 4th and 5th February.

The IHCC also published its International Health Newsletter, held its quarterly International Health Activity meeting and delivered a Global Citizenship workshop at ABUHB.

[MI approach to insight gathers around screening non-attendance via National Health Protection Support Team \(NHPST\)](#)

The Behavioural Science Unit supported NHPST (informally known as the 'surge team') with training, tools, and a behavioural framework to improve screening uptake. The work helped re-engage non-responders, with 56% accepting new appointments. 485 were re-booked in 6 months, disproportionately from those in deprived areas. The work was shared across PHW and Welsh Government health protection and senior leadership forums.

[Supporting Bowel Screening Wales bid for CRUK funding:](#)

The Behavioural Science Unit responded to a request for support from Bowel Screening Wales (BSW) with an application for funding to Cancer Research UK's 'Test, Evidence, Transition Programme'. The programme aims to accelerate the effective adoption of service innovations and reducing inequality in access to proven interventions. The BSW project aims to increase the numbers of people who have screened-positive, attending for colonoscopy. The bid was successful and the Unit will be providing specialist advice and support, drawing on contemporary evidence and practice.

[Social Connection, Loneliness and Social Isolation: Welsh Report](#)

This report, published on 18th February, presents loneliness, social isolation and social connection in Wales from a public health perspective. It draws on the 2025 flagship report from the WHO Commission on Social Connection, which established social disconnection as a global public health challenge.

The report brings this global perspective into the Welsh context, offering a comprehensive overview of the scale, risk factors and impacts of loneliness and social isolation in Wales, as well as solutions and examples of good practice. It is aimed at professionals, policymakers and other individuals working directly or indirectly in the field of social connection. Wales has already been recognised as an international leader in action to support social connection through being one of the first countries to establish a dedicated strategy to address loneliness and social isolation. Building on this strong foundation, the report identifies areas for further action.

[TTPH October 2025 Survey Report:](#)

The October 2025 survey report, published in February 2026, focused on sources of health information, health and well-being after pregnancy, ageism, health policy, and Public Health Wales. The team met with Welsh Government and Age Cymru to discuss the ageism data and were subsequently invited to attend the Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing in January. The team have also met with the Older People's Commissioners Office who have proactively shared the findings within their networks.

[WHOCC on Investment for Health and Well-being Re-designation](#)

The Policy and International Health Directorate was re-designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre (WHOCC) for another four years (2026-30). Designated in 2018, this was the first WHOCC in this area of expertise, becoming part of a global network of more than 800 collaborating centres. It has been working closely with WHO and Welsh Government focusing on supporting health equity, investing in prevention and building well-being economies, health in all policies, sustainable development, behavioural science, healthy settings, and trauma-informed approaches across the life course, including ACEs and violence prevention.

The WHOCC has been instrumental in progressing key public health priorities nationally and globally, enabling international learning and sharing, growing Wales and PHW visibility and impact, and bringing opportunities for professional development and income generation. It has also enabled the signing of an MOU between WHO/Europe and Wales towards healthy prosperous lives for all; and the recognition of Wales as a leader nation in implementing a well-being economy with health and equity at the heart.

Successes

- PIH re-designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre (WHOCC) for another four years (2026-30)
- Visit from RIVM to deliver Strategic Foresight workshops to internal and external stakeholders
- Publication of the new HIA Guidance for Wales on February 24th.

Any Concerns being managed:

- Capacity of the organisational decarbonisation programme is limited and impacting our ability to maximise opportunities to decarbonise our operations.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Webinar for public bodies in Wales

- WHIASU, in collaboration with Welsh Government, will hold a webinar for public bodies in Wales to introduce the HIA Regulations and the newly published HIA guidance.

Evidence brief for cities and communities to advocate for and support action to foster social connection

- This short brief will translate evidence from the recent WHO Commission on Social Connection report: From loneliness to social connection for use by the Age-friendly Cities and Communities global network. As part of its development, we will invite input and feedback from the Older People's Commissioner / Age-friendly communities' network in Wales.

Home temperatures and health in Wales

- A briefing will present findings from an exploratory study on the lived experiences of home temperatures and health during winter among people living in low-income households, including data from objective measurement of indoor temperatures.
- A journal paper will present findings from qualitative interviews with people living in low-income households on their experiences of home temperatures and health during winter in Wales.

[A place to thrive: Creating healthier homes for children and families in poverty across Wales](#)

- The report will highlight how unaffordable, poor-quality and insecure housing affects the health and wellbeing of children and families in poverty across Wales.

2 – Promoting mental and social well-being

[International Health Insights Report on Dementia Prevention informing the Welsh Government Dementia Strategy development and consultation \(3 March 2026\)](#)

- This report will support Welsh Government to develop a new Dementia Action Plan, following the Mental Health Strategy for Wales.

[A Social-determinants framework to support INSPIRE \(WHO\) - Paper 1 Mobilise knowledge to inform the prevention of violence against children](#)

Review of the impact of policy / legislation on the social determinants of violence against children, responding to key evidence gaps identified in the production of a social determinants framework to support the implementation of INSPIRE and informing the Sustainable Development Goal to end all forms of violence against children

[Review of ACEs and healthcare engagement](#)

This scoping review will explore the association between ACEs and engagement with healthcare services. Findings will be published as a peer-review paper

["Falling from the Sky" - Voices of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children \(UASC\) in local authority care in Wales.:](#)

This jointly commissioned report captures the largely positive experiences of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Welsh local authority care, while highlighting key learning around the adversity and trauma they face on their journey to Wales and the UK.

4 - Supporting the development of a sustainable health and care system focused on prevention and early intervention

[Social value of immunisation project with Pan American Health Organisation \(PAHO\) :](#)

This 12-month work programme will be delivered by the WEAVE team to establish the evidence base, upskill and build capacity and knowledge in relation

to the social value of immunisation in the Pan American region. This work aims to support addressing vaccine hesitancy and literacy in Wales working closely with the VPDP.

6 - Tackling the public health effects of climate change

Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan:

The Health & Sustainability Hub is leading work on climate change risk and adaptation planning. This includes developing a Climate Response plan by 31st March 2026.

Engagement with key staff across the organisation has enabled us to understand the key risks presented by climate change, including the long-term risks to health, service delivery, infrastructure, workforce resilience and community wellbeing, and identify adaptation actions to ensure we are better prepared for future climate events.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

Public perceptions and experience of Section 1 stop and search in Wales (AWPAC):

Led by the Public Health Collaborating Unit (PHCU, Bangor University), this work will conduct analysis of data on Section 1 Stop and Search (Collected through the TTPH panel) to explore perceptions of Stop and Search in Wales. A peer-reviewed journal publication of key findings will be produced.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

| | |
|--|--|
| Directorate: | Public Health Research, Data and Digital |
| Executive Lead: | Iain Bell |
| Reporting Month: | February |
| Business Executive Team Meeting Date: | 18 March 2026 |
| Board Meeting Date: | 26 March 2026 |

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

- Third Steering Group for Child Death Review Project, 4 February 2026. This aims to look at the Child Death Review processes in Wales across legislation, governance, processes, cross-border issues and status of the Child Death Review Programme. This aims to have recommendations by late Spring.
- Primary Care Clusters Dashboard published 21 January 2026.
- Finalisation of Cyber Incident Response Plan and the delivery of a new internal phishing awareness campaign for staff.
- Confirmed revised Digital Health Protection (DHP) delivery schedule. End date (Jan 2028) remains the same. Interim milestones updated. Phase 1 on track for delivery in July 2026.
- Mapping end-to-end processes for the sexual health services, and gathering requirements across multiple components to support next steps. Go-live of electronic tools to support help-line and Multi-Disciplinary Team to support the response to the recent issues in the service.
- Coordinated PHW response to the Welsh Government on our approaches to demographics and any risks or incidents arising from misdirected correspondence.

Successes

- One successful funding grant award aligned to climate change strategic priority: HEARD – Hearing Every Voice: Cocreating an Inclusive and Diverse Research Culture for Climate Change and Health (Learned Society Wales, £3000).
- The Delivery and Operational Delivery Assurance Review for the Lung Cancer Wales Screening Programme was approved by Digital and Data Design Authority.

- The onboarding of a User Centered Design apprentice, the first apprentice appointed in the Digital Services division.
- The Gambling Related Harm Reduction Programme held their first programme board on 23rd February 2026 with the Programme Initiation Document and Terms of reference for the programme being approved. The Ministerial statement on 'Gambling support and treatment services in Wales' issued 25th February 2026. Procurement with Gamban (software blocking access to Gambling Websites and apps for the people of Wales) is proceeding with no issues identified and is tracking to be in place for 1st April 2026.
- The procurement for the Alpha phase of the All-Wales sexual health case management system was signed off in Dec-25. Kick off sessions begun in Jan-26 and is on target to complete by end of March 2026.

Any Concerns being managed:

- Radiology data flows to CARIS issue logged on Datix. Mitigations underway to resolve.
- LIMS2 data extract not picking up all relevant cancer cases for 2026 registration – mitigation options being explored that look likely to solve the problem, including amending the extract logic and remediation of missing cases.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

- A high-level plan for registers improvement, including improving cancer official statistics timeliness, will be presented to the Data, Analysis, Registers and Cloud (DARC) Programme Board for approval on 24 March
- Soft launch of the All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme html report.
- Completion of the Warm Wales evaluation.
- Official Statistics: Cancer Survival in Wales 2002-2022 will be published 26 March 2026, alongside Pathology samples indicating new cases of cancer
- Poster presentation on cancer projections at Wales Cancer Research Conference.
- UK & Ireland Association of Cancer Registries Executive Meeting.
- Pan-Registries Collaborative Senior Leadership Team meeting.
- Public health outcomes framework update to be published 18 March 2026.
- Progressing the procurement of the Pathway Administration System for the Lung Cancer Screening Programme.
- Completion of Authority to Deploy sign off for Wedinos Information Management System
- Complete the low-level design for migrating the Public Health Genomics data into the cloud and progress migration.
- Completion of DHP contractual milestone 03 – required to remain on track with forecast FY spend.

- Enable user log-in to DHP dev/test environment to commence user familiarisation
- Confirm DHP write-back option to allow DHP to progress as scheduled
- Work with the Sexual Health Management team to define the requirements for updating the current test and post service and to automate the existing manual processes.
- Analysis of weight management drugs – estimated costs, populations, and comorbidities, to be disseminated with the Health Boards w/c 9 March

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Directorate: | Health and Wellbeing |
| Executive Lead: | Jim McManus |
| Reporting Month: | January and February 2026 |
| Business Executive Team Meeting Date: | 18 March 2026 |
| Board Meeting Date: | 26 March 2026 |

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Improvement Division

Tobacco Control Programme

- TVNAP – *Smoking Unfiltered* campaign ran January–February to encourage 16–24-year-olds to stay smokefree, using influencers for the first time alongside paid social ads. The campaign generated 7.7M impressions (how often a piece of content is seen) and over 11,000 clicks, driving 55% of Help Me Quit website traffic. Among those who stayed on the site, 44% visited the 'How to quit vaping' page, showing strong interest in vaping support. TikTok and Snapchat were most effective for active engagement of young adults, while Meta drove the most impressions. Influencer posts reached around 34–35k views each.
- The programme also finalised the Welsh Government-commissioned Help Me Quit Service Review for publication and presented new evidence to the Senedd Cross-Party Group on the economic cost of smoking, supporting discussions on ambitious tobacco control measures.

Healthy Weight Whole Systems Approach and the weight management pathway

- Externally funded PHIRST evaluation protocol agreed and confirmed for Whole Systems Approach
- Supporting new WG group for OOH food.
- Launched new HWHY weight medication content and collaborated on the development of weight management pathway site for health professionals and GPs
- Established national community of practice for the weight management pathway

Mental Wellbeing Programme

- The programme advanced Wales' creative health agenda with the launch of Cynefin: A Creative Health Review for Wales in January. This 12-month, multi-agency initiative began mapping creative health activity and shaping recommendations to strengthen impact and reduce inequalities.

Educational Settings

- 100% of secondary schools in Wales now have action plans in place to promote and protect learner's emotional and mental well-being through a whole school approach

Healthy Working Wales

- HWW: Employer survey tool (56 completions to date), Workplace Adviser Support (11 requests to date) ongoing. Insights focus groups with 16-24yo employees underway. Social marketing and promotion key priority currently.
- submitted the Q3 2025/26 report to inform strategic discussions with Welsh Government. The report provided key updates to support ongoing collaboration on workplace health improvement.
- NERS: Operational oversight ongoing. ROI research ongoing.

Alcohol drugs and Gambling

- Procurement of Gamban app for gambling prevention ready for launch in April 2026.
- Supported appointment of treatment provider for gambling and developing programme and procurement of providers for prevention activity.
- Prepared drugs and alcohol needs assessment in advance of launch.

Social Marketing

- Healthy Weight Healthy You - 'Don't Let Setbacks Win' 4-week campaign burst to launch the new 'Don't Let Setbacks win'.

Childrens Nutrition, Early years and F1000 days

- Delivered behavioural insights workshops with school food partners on behalf of Welsh Government to inform implementation of the forthcoming Regulations. All IMTP milestones complete for the Team.
- Completed the national Every Child universal parenting series, publishing the final two bilingual digital resources—Age 2 to Starting School and Age 4 to 7. There is now a full evidence-based suite supporting families from pregnancy through age seven. Developed with parents, practitioners, and policy partners, the resources strengthened Wales' trusted early-years offer and helped reduce misinformation by providing consistent guidance across services.

Physical Activity

- Decision on successful bidder for the Daily Active 8 Domain Resource. Completion of engagement activities of Phase 2 of the place-based approach for active school travel.

Primary Care Division

Prevention in Health and Care

Disease prevention

- **Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention:** Recommendations drafted for CVD Prevention Plan for Wales. GMS QI project on CVD prevention for people with hypertension extended to year 2 2026/27. CVD prevention through AWDPP scoped, utilising ABCD+ approach.
- **All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme (AWDPP):** Continued advocacy to support mainstreaming and scaling of AWDPP, including supporting business case development. Continued development of GDM pathway. Full report on AWDPP outcome evaluation published.

Life-course programmes:

- **Health & Wellbeing (HWB) after Pregnancy:** Draft content for contraception after pregnancy e-learning development completed and user testing undertaken. Resource to support 'making the case' for HWB after pregnancy developed further and outline of postnatal care pathway identified.
- **Musculoskeletal (MSK) Prevention:** Alignment of workstreams undertaken on improving physical activity, addressing workforce health and supporting MSK prevention.

Workforce and prevention:

- **Social Prescribing and Making Every Contact Count (MECC):** Supported submission of financial wellbeing (FWB) & SP scoping review for peer-review publication. Briefing on FWB as a building block for health published. MECC Level 2 generic e-learning module promoted to wider health workforce across Wales. MECC Level 1 e-learning being adapted for Health Working Wales employers. MECC Level 1 and Level 2 e-learning modules being adapted for inclusion on Y Ty Dysgu platform. MECC performance management dashboard developed and implemented.
- **Return to work support:** Review of best practice being scoped to enable health and care workforce (with a focus on AHP workforce) to deliver person-centred return to work support for people, following 'long-term' sickness absence (defined as over 4 weeks).
- **Prevention-Based Health & Care (PBHC):** Developed tools to support implementation of PBHC framework. Inputted into Community by Design (CBD) programme to maintain alignment with PBHC and PIHAG, and to maximise opportunities presented by CBD. Coordinating and drafting PBHC framed response to Dementia Strategy consultation.

Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme

- 1,279 actions already completed by 129 contractor teams for 2025/2026 to date.

- Delivered a webinar celebrating the programme's progress. Primary care teams shared success stories that demonstrated how the Scheme is reshaping their everyday practice. The webinar can be viewed [here](#).
- Further [case studies](#) have been developed and one of them is featured in the recent edition of the [newsletter](#).
- SBAR prepared for SPPC/DPPC Peer groups to consider the primary care actions in the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan 2025-2030](#)

Inhalers

- Plans progressing to round up Task and Finish and associated sub-groups and transition into business as usual for 26/27. Work will merge into the wider environmentally sustainable medicines management agenda.
- Application for HEIW to support the environmentally sustainable medicines management agenda not successful.
- Report requested to be presented to All Wales Medicines Strategy group collating the progress and impact of the group (planned for Sept 2026 meeting).
- Inhaler recycling included in the specification for the new clinical waste contract coming into force in Wales 2027 and managed by NHS Wales SSP.
- Support and input to Your Medicines Your Health to ensure the wider environmentally sustainable prescribing agenda is included being scoped.
- Desktop exercise to collate the evidence base across the UK of inhaler recycle pilot schemes completed and report drafted. Presented to the 4 nations group for initial feedback in March. Plans for presentation to the final T&F group meeting, wider dissemination and publication of the work in a peer review journal.
- Case study based on an evaluation of facilitators and barriers resulting in Hywel Dda UHB being highest driver for change and KPIs prepared and plans for further dissemination and publication under way.

Primary Care Model for Wales

- A suite of Primary Care Model for Wales (PCMW) evaluation outputs (Cluster Peer review, Summary of the three Peer review cycles and a Triangulation report) were presented at the PCMW workstream. The work was acknowledgment as important learning and insight, that should be used to inform the delivery of the Community by Design (CbD) Transformation Programme. The reports will be discussed at the Primary Care Leadership Group (06/03/2026), with the aim of sharing the insight with the CbD Reference Group and Chief Medical Officer.
- The Options Appraisal for Cluster Self-reflection was discussed at the PCMW workstream. The group unanimously agreed to stop the current self-reflection process and, alongside a review of the other components of the PCMW Evaluation, develop an improved approach.
- Ongoing work to advocate the use of the National Person Experience Survey across the four Independent Contractors. Testing different approaches such as utilising the National Person Experience Questions as part of the Directed Supplementary Service of Complex Multi-Morbidity and Frailty Evaluation.

Primary Care One website

- PCONE content migrated across to the new PHW website. The launch of the new PHW website has been rescheduled from February to the end of March. The current PCONE site will be decommissioned when the new website has been launched.
- Initiated the development of a Primary and Community Care SharePoint to support the sharing of resources/ learning from cluster working (those specifically developed for stakeholders).

Public Health approach to Primary and Community Care system by 2035

- Finalising the findings from the OECD analysis on Continuity of Care (CoC), which will be shared with CoC working group and the Community by Design Urgent / Same Day Care Pillar.
- Supported development of the CoC QI project year 2 specification and review of the template poster, with a view to collecting data/ insight to inform ongoing evaluation of the implementation and impact from CoC (not focused on the quality of the QI process).

- Finalised the CoC year one (process) evaluation with the multi-professional working group. Developing a Microsoft survey that captures learning for the three QI projects (CoC, ABCD+ and CKD) to reduce survey burden on GMS colleagues.
- Working alongside Clusters to develop a suite of Case Studies, showcasing the work they have led to deliver 'Care Closer to Home' and evidence a population health approach in Primary and Community Care. The insight will improve peer to peer learning between Clusters and inform the delivery of the Community by Design (CbD) Transformation Programme.
- Scoping of a series of rapid evidence reviews to support 'Community by Design/ Care Closer to Home' work in progress.

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

- Health Inclusion summit delivered in partnership with Cymorth Cymru which included a spotlight on Inclusion health in Ireland / Developing a flexible, open access mental health model / Involving experts by experience / Supporting sexual violence survivors / & Continuity of healthcare in the criminal justice system.
- Finalised '*Education and training framework for Inclusion, Prison and Custody Suite Health Services in Wales*' and working progressing to engage with stakeholders to socialise the framework.
- Progressing work to finalise '*A Call to Action to improve continuity of healthcare for people in contact with the Justice System in Wales*' and 'Improving Continuity of HealthCare for People in contact with the justice system: Support tool for health professionals and justice staff'.
- Submitted the NHW Wales approach to health inequalities to the NHS Leadership Board.
- Evaluation of action plan to reduce health inequalities through primary care progressing.
- Continue to support and shape the Women's Health Hubs to deliver through a population health approach.
- Work begun on collating the evidence on implementing waiting list initiatives with an equity approach.

Dental Public Health

Provided the PHW Quality, Improvement and Safety Committee (QISC) assurance on delivery and ongoing quality improvement in relation to dental public health programmes. Informed the committee our approach and plan to improve oral health intelligence functions, associated IG and other challenges and seeking clarity from WG (legal advice) if passive (opt out) consenting is a possibility for supervised toothbrushing programme and dental inspection of children within the Dental Epidemiology Programme.

Oral Health Intelligence

Report on [oral health of school year one children report](#) and [infograph](#) published. The findings from this Dental Epidemiology Programme have been communicated to key stakeholders. We will continue to utilise the information for advocacy especially in relation to addressing oral health inequalities through WG's policy, service planning, design of care pathways and commissioning/service provision.

Oral Health Improvement

- Planning and delivery of an in-person national study day for the Designed to Smile workforce on 9th June 2026.
- Initiating research project to measure the reliability of extended duty dental nurses to identify dental caries in young children; to create evidence to demonstrate the value of an improved care pathway from D2S to clinical dental services. Project costs will be funded by external monies that Mary Wilson has brought into PHW.
- Resource pack for general dental practices to support implementation of the new national dental contract: Supporting Babies' and Young children's Oral Health.
- Review of the targeting strategy for the nursery and school- based supervised toothbrushing and fluoride varnish programmes to align with WIMD2025.
- Refresh of public facing materials to comply with new All-Wales Standards for Accessible Communication and Information.

Dental Quality and Safety

Ongoing engagement and discussions with WG, HBs and others in relation to Dental public health programme support to the dental system reform programme.

Wider Determinants of Health

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales

- Enabling joined up local action on determinants: Co-developed proposal for Gwent PSB to support economic chances priority with pro-vice chancellor of University of South Wales.
- Developing learning systems: Supporting Healthy Weight Health Wales systems leads to design learning system.
- Developing the PSB support offer: Agreement with Hwb Dyfodol to better integrate systems thinking into futures thinking offer for PSBs.

Building a Healthier Wales

- Supporting better collaboration on child poverty: Better Join up, Better outcomes for child poverty, literature review, needs assessment and recommendations on collaboration completed, being published 11March.
- Good practice on poverty shared: Completed review and update of Cost of Living Case Studies.
- Engaging Building a Healthier Wales Partners over future arrangements.

IWDOH Priority

- Continue to support the priority delivery/routemap implementation. Developing TOR for Horizon Scanning Group and theme area reporting mechanism.
- Worklessness of public health concern.
- Co-developing pan-Wales employability and health forum for a more joined up approach to ill-health related worklessness.

Successes

- Significant engagement with Smoking Unfiltered campaign and the don't let the setbacks win healthy weight campaigns.
- Whole school approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing now has 100% school engagement.
- Successful Healthy Working Wales Engagement Activity and Media across Wales.
- Briefing published on '[Financial Wellbeing as a Building Block for Health in Wales](#)', jointly developed by teams across PHW, Money & Pensions Service (MAPS) and other partners, including WG, CAB Cymru, Community Housing Cymru, Lloyds Banking Group, National Advice Network, British Red Cross, and Older People's Commissioner for Wales.
- Report on [oral health of school year one children report](#) and [infograph](#) published.
- Report on '[Findings from the outcome evaluation of the All-Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme](#)' published
- [CVD prevention in people with high blood pressure](#) GMS QI project extended for a second year
- The Greener Primary Care Wales Framework and Award Scheme national webinar celebrating the programme's progress, primary care teams shared success stories that demonstrated how the scheme is reshaping their everyday practice. [Greener Primary Care Wales marks major milestones in environmental sustainability drive.](#)
- Public Health Network Cymru successfully trialled a new approach to enable members from across sectors to connect with each other, and with topic leads, and explore shared challenges and solutions. These sessions provide a creative space, less formal than webinars, to build a community and joint working to improve population health and wellbeing. To date we have facilitated two successful 'connecting members' sessions: Brain Health and Dementia Risk Reduction and Teg i Bawb/Fair for all. Evaluation showed new connections, actions and usefulness for attendees.

Any Concerns being managed:

- NERS: Priority is data displays and reporting functionality - still no solution - hoping to achieve through DARC in 2026.
- HIPAS system- options currently being scoped.
- AWDPP - Audit plus availability for Wales is a key risk for AWDPP programme to capture data for monitoring and national reporting.
- AWDPP – Whilst some short term funding for delivery has been secured for 2026/27, this doesn't match the existing level of delivery and onward plans for expansion and sustainable delivery of the programme remain uncertain.

- HWB after Pregnancy – very tight timescales to undertake development of training and associated evaluation of contraception after pregnancy training.
- MECC - Existing MECC website (microsite) is outdated and may present security vulnerabilities. This has been identified and the current contract for microsite is due to expire on 31.03.26, with all websites content to be hosted from 01.04.26 on new Primary Care Division webpages (PHW).
- Oral Health Improvement- Lack of communication from NHS Shared Services Partnership to deliver on the national procurement exercise for consumables in the Designed to Smile programme jeopardises ability to continue the programme once current contract expires in July 2026 (already been extended beyond contract).

Wider Determinants of Health Unit

- Building a Healthier Wales role under review, engaging members, recognising potential impact of elections in May.
- Resourcing of commitments on economic inactivity/worklessness remain a concern.
- Capacity for partners (eg LAs/CJCs) to engage on opportunities such as local growth fund remains challenging.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Health Improvement Division

Tobacco

- Help Me Quit (HMQ) Smoking Cessation App Launch
- Tobacco Prevention creative campaign: Social media activity aimed at preventing the uptake of tobacco smoking amongst 18-24 year olds

Whole systems, pathway and healthy weight

- Out of home food presentation for WG OOH working group
- PIPYN celebration and learning event

Physical Activity

- Forward look: Completion of report on Phase 2 of the place-based approach for active school travel.
- Initiation meeting for the Daily Active 8 Domain Resource commission.

Gambling drugs and alcohol

Launch of the Gamban App. Publication and Launch of the Drugs and Alcohol needs assessment

Healthy Working Wales

'Workplace Wellbeing: First Steps' group sessions for employers commence in March with WG Trailblazer employers.

F1000 days

Framework for Action - The Best Start in Life: The Power of High-Quality Play for Babies, Young Children and their Families.

Social marketing

Tobacco campaigns. Healthy Weight Healthy You - 'Don't Let Setbacks Win' 4-week campaign burst to launch the new 'Don't Let Setbacks win'

Primary Care Prevention

- **CVD Prevention:** Finalise CVD Prevention Plan for Wales recommendations. Plan and deliver webinar to support all three GMS QI projects for 26/27. Develop evaluation of hypertension QIP and plan for mainstreaming continual QI approach following April 2027.
- **AWDPP:** Continue to work with health boards on plans for mainstreaming AWDPP. Draft update to version 3 of AWDPP protocol to include GDM and CVD pathways for AWDPP. Develop AWDPP extension to diabetes audit plus module. Scope quality improvement approach, focussing on efficiencies for AWDPP.

Life-course programmes:

- **HWB after Pregnancy:** Finalise content development for e-learning module on contraception after pregnancy, including Welsh translation. Complete initial 'Making the case for HWB after pregnancy' resource.
- **MSK Prevention:** Outline plans for refreshed approach to MSK prevention including improving physical activity and workforce health.

Workforce and prevention:

- **Social Prescribing and MECC:** Share findings of Financial Wellbeing and Social Prescribing Scoping review with stakeholders. Launch MECC generic Level 1 and 2 training modules on HEIW Y Ty Dysgu platform. Revise all current MECC website content in preparation for transition from National MECC website to hosting content on Primary Care Division web pages. Meet with MECC leads to inform development of vision for MECC.
- **Return to work support:** Outline plans for review of best practice to enable health and care workforce (with a focus on AHP workforce) to deliver person-centred return to work support for people, following 'long-term' sickness absence (defined as over 4 weeks).

Prevention-Based Health & Care: Develop plans for publication of tools to support utilisation of PBHC framework. Submit Dementia Strategy consultation response.

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme

- Share End of Year 4 (2025) report, Finalise webpages and continue to scope option for data collection and routine reporting.

Inhalers

- Finalise webpages, plans for 2026/27 shared and discussions to move into BAU. Desktop exercise to collate the evidence base across the UK of inhaler recycle pilot schemes reported.

Other medicines

- Stakeholder group to consider priorities, actions and the 'how' led by PHW planned for March 2026. System leaders to consider SBAR.

Primary Care Model for Wales

- Engage with senior leaders on the current Primary Care Model for Wales (PCMW) Evaluation plan to determine how this work aligns with the CbD Transformation Programme.
- Undertake Stakeholder engagement to develop a Theory of Change for the PCMW Evaluation and consider what evaluation methodologies need refinement/ change.

Primary Care One website

- Addition of new content to PCONE is paused. Urgent changes/ additions to PCONE content will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Finalise the End of Year PCONE Report and table at the April PCMW workstream.
- Alongside stakeholders (SharePoint Users) design and develop the Primary and Community Care SharePoint pages.

Public Health approach to Primary and Community Care system by 2035

- Finalise the collation of examples of Cluster working that have delivered 'Care Closer to Home' and evidence a population health approach.
- Undertake rapid evidence reviews to support 'Community by Design/ Care Closer to Home' work in progress.
- Review the 2035 evidence for Care Closer to Home, to identify the foundational blocks required for successful implementation.
- Analyse the findings of the GMS QI Survey. Survey to be disseminated to all GP Practice Managers in early April).
- Review the Continuity of Care (CoC) QI Poster submissions to inform the Year One CoC Evaluation.
- Analyse the findings of the Directed Supplementary Service for Complex Multi-morbidity and Frailty evaluation findings. Survey to be disseminated to GP practices in early April.

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

- Plan further workshops with the Kings Fund for Cluster Leads and other key primary care leads / Relevant Strategic Health Board, NHS Trusts in Wales, National Bodies and Welsh Government colleagues.
- Publish and socialise the Health & justice products.
- Continue to work with PHW corporate to migrate the webpages to PHW webpages before closure of PC One.

Wider Determinants of Health Unit

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales

- Case studies of programme impact to be published, with communications about the programme with sponsors, DsPH and PSB Chairs.
- National systems thinking learning group: delivering booster learning sessions.
- Further development of local systems thinking support to Gwent and Powys.
- Leading on a learning spaces subgroup of the national Strengthening PSB group and feeding into non-statutory guidance for PSBs well-being assessments.

Public Health Network Cymru - Migrating and integrating the network website into coherent resource and offer within Public Health Wales site.

Building a Healthier Wales - Better Join up, Better outcomes for child poverty: Needs Assessment collaboration to address child poverty being published 11 March 2026 along with self-assessment tool and other associated documents. Contributed to PHW Submission to UK Parliament child poverty strategy inquiry (Submission on 13 March 2026).

Worklessness of public health concern

- Undertaking umbrella review on interventions for supporting people into work.
- Agree and develop explainers on Worklessness of Public Health Concern as part of WDoH co-ordinated resources project (WDoH Unit).
- Engaging partners on opportunities to inform Local Growth Plans.