

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health Protection and Screening Services Directorate
Executive Lead:	Meng Khaw
Reporting Month:	September 2026 (retrospective August – forward look September)
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	16 September 2026
Board Meeting Date:	24 September 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Protection Division

- Progressed the development of the Digital Health Protection Programme (DHPP), alongside planning for national implementation.
- Completed validation of the safeguarding backlog and commissioned an external review of the Sexual Health Test & Post service.
- Provided public health support to partners across Wales during recent heatwaves and wildfires.
- Maintained the Health Protection Team (HPT) response time standard for 100% of urgent, high, and medium priority incidents.

Infection Services Division

- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU): Completion of protozoan parasites waterborne risks for Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) group.
- CRU: Finalising the 2025 annual referrals report with Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre.
- Verification of new Bactec equipment and assessed a potential new lytics bottle type to improve detection times.
- The Senior Management Team (SMT) approved the standardised process for Gonorrhoea identification.

Screening Division

- Continued work on delivery of improvement Plans in Breast Test Wales (BTW), Bowel Screening Wales (BSW), and Diabetic Eye Screening Wales (DESW).
- Managed the impact of heatwaves on screening clinics, particularly on BTW mobile units.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Socialising Pandemic Response Arrangements with partners to validate, strengthen and align plans across National Health Service (NHS) Wales, local authorities, Welsh Government and United Kingdom (UK) preparedness frameworks, supporting a coordinated whole-system pandemic response.
- Supported multi-agency response and recovery to multiple wildfire incidents, providing public health advice, partner coordination, and internal situational awareness.
- Completed analysis of data from the Inequalities in EPRR project, with work ongoing to identify the most effective approach for sharing findings with partners across Wales.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Continued joint work between the OMD and Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance (NQIG) Directorate on the Assurance Review commissioned following the Sexual Health Incident Management Team (SH IMT).
- Continued work arising from the Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) review relating to Local Education Provider status for PHW.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: Short-notice request received from Genomics Partnership Wales (GPW) to support Welsh Government budget planning, a rapid high-level two-year genomics funding estimate was developed, drawing on input from HPSS, Research, Digital, Data and Health & Wellbeing colleagues. This work will now be progressed by Public Health Genomics to develop a robust investment proposal through GPW, supporting delivery of the forthcoming Genomics Delivery Plan for Wales once approved.
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme (HPIP): Finalising workplans for 26/27.
- Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC): Developed a range of communications for World Hepatitis Day, including a patient story.

Successes

Health Protection Division

- Raising awareness of hepatitis C on ITV News to coincide with publication of the annual Bloodborne Virus (BBV) surveillance report on World Hepatitis Day.
- Published key national surveillance and vaccination reports, including the childhood vaccination update and influenza reports.
- Secured presentations and publications at the Five Nations conference, showcasing Health Protection work across Wales.
- Supporting the roll out of the Meningococcal B (Meng B) programme.

Infection Services Division

- Continued the Bactec equipment refresh across the laboratory network.
- Delivered Train the Trainer training to Cwm Taff staff on Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF) sample processing and Category A packaging.
- Agreement with Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) and United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) for streamlining Multiple-Locus Variable-Number Tandem-Repeat Analysis (MLVA) data transfer to the Northwest to pioneer cluster processes for UKHSA.
- Attendance at the Royal Welsh Show to promote Public Health Wales (PHW) Food Water Environmental services. Positive engagement with food businesses from across Wales identifying opportunities for future growth.

Screening Division

- Bowel Screening Wales (BSW) progressed through the first stage of Welsh Government funding bid for automated pre assessments.
- Excellent feedback from Wales Screening Committee on the screening programme portfolio, with particular recognition of the National Health Protection Surge Team (NHPST) 12-month evaluation report.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Submitted the Annual Assurance return to NHS Wales Performance and Improvement ahead of the August deadline.
- Established monthly liaison meeting between the National Public Health Surge Team and Cardiff partners to strengthen engagement.
- Supported and actively participated in the internal Business Continuity Audit.
- Completed the PHW review of reports from Modules 4 & 5 of the COVID-19 Inquiry, ready for presentation to Business Executive Team (BET) and Board.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Successfully onboarded registrars in both public health and infection services.

- Held the first PHW Clinical Governance Group meeting and establishment of Steering Group.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: Promoted the programme at both staff conferences and the Annual General meeting, generating positive engagement from colleagues.
- Communicable Disease Inclusion Health Programme (CDIHP): Launched Part One of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Sentencing Bill.
- Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC): Acceptance of COVID Communities paper by Global Epidemiology.
- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP): Findings from engagement survey regarding Gay, Bisexual and Other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM) have been shared with Welsh Government.

Any Concerns Being Managed

Health Protection Division

- Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances (WEDINOS): Testing backlog due to lab staff shortages. Working with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CAVUHB) to reduce delays.
- EDGE: Concurrent cloud migration and Digital Health Protection Programme (DHPP) development continue to create capacity pressures, impacting business as usual activity (inc. genomics programme).
- Lead Officer Training: The programme agreement requires review, alongside further Steering Group support.
- Sexual Health Incident Management Team: Response and follow up work remain ongoing.

Infection Services Division

- The pod system in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CAVUHB) has failed preventing transport of blood cultures through the system. An audit is being undertaken to assess the impact on blood culture turnaround time (TAT).
- Comark tender timelines: Procurement and governance timescales create a risk that the awarded capital funding may not be fully utilised by 31 March 2027.
- Wales Centre for Mycobacterium autoclave: Capital investment is at risk because ownership of the asset remains disputed by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. The matter has been escalated to Welsh Government through the Head of Estates at Public Health Wales, with no progress reported to date.
- Singleton Autoclave: The equipment remains out of service. The Health Board is managing Category A waste held on site.

Screening Division

- The division is forecasting a significant overspend.

- Waiting times for Breast Test Wales (BTW) assessment in North Wales have increased.
- Reduced staffing levels and high sickness rates have led to a reduction in capacity to screen in some programmes.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Digital Health Protection (DHP) Project: Concerns remain re; continued predominance of Health Protection requirements within programme design decisions risks the solutions not being fit for purpose for EPRR, with potential gaps in functionality required to support emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities.
- EPH Out of Hours (OOH) Response Support: Changes to the OOH Environmental Public Health support from UK Health Support Agency (UKHSA). Continuing to monitor for risk to PHW's ability to meet its statutory emergency response responsibilities.
- Supporting System Preparedness: Short-notice requests to support system preparedness continue to risk of delay delivery of internal workplans.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- One Fitness to Practise (FtP) case for Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC) registrant.
- One potential FtP case for General Medical Council (GMC) registrant.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: PHW digital issues with respect to project planning and delivery of agreed cloud work: Non-delivery of work due to resource issues and lack of engagement.
- Limited progress has been made with Health Protection and Screening Services (HPSS) Delivery Confidence Assessments (DCA) register.

Forward Look of Key Activities for Next Month

Health Protection Division

- The division will continue delivery of the Digital Health Protection Programme (DHPP) and associated cloud migration activity.
- Implement the renewed Methameasure contract and progress Sexual Health Incident Management Team (SH IMT) actions.
- Progress workforce development initiatives including training needs analysis and rotational training frameworks.
- Prepare for autumn vaccination campaigns and associated programme delivery.

Infection Services Division

- Supporting multiple Health Boards to identify emergency response arrangements for viral haemorrhagic fever sample processing.

- Progress Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Implementation.
- Infection Workforce Sub-Group to focus on updating Workforce plan for 2026.

Screening Division

- Obtain approval to award contract for Patient Administration System (PAS) procurement for Lung Screening Wales.
- Continue with Improvement Plans for Breast Test Wales (BTW), Bowel Screening Wales (BSW), and Diabetic Eye Screening Wales (DESW).
- Scope Public Health Wales (PHW) resource needed to develop a targeted prostate screening programme in Wales.
- Continue planning for the transition to the new directorate.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Work ongoing with International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) on Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) project.
- Continue planning and coordination for the Health Prepared Wales 2026 Conference and support preparations for the Welsh Public Health Conference.
- Represent PHW at Exercise Pandemic Flux with Swansea Bay University Health Board, (internal pandemic preparedness event) and at Exercise Coracle with Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum (testing multi-agency flood response and coordination arrangements).
- Use Quarter 2 (Q2) EPRR Group meetings to review delivery, risks, lessons, assurance and partner engagement, and support delivery of the Wales Gold V Course, in North Wales.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Joint working with Nursing, Quality, and Integrated Governance (NQIG), PHW Allied Health Professional (AHP) Lead for Prevention, Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) relating to professional student placements.
- Support to finalise the Assurance Review report findings and recommendations.
- Increase focus on job plan completion.
- Resume recording annual leave for the medical and dental workforce following implementation of the Codi system.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) Europe Region Meeting in October: Tom Fowler to meet with Health Protection Inequalities Programme (HPIP) leads to discuss presentations and programme for event.
- EPRR: Completion of the Inequalities report.

- Training and Guidance (T&G): Support development of the Behavioural Science Commissioning Module.
- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP): Ongoing evaluation of second year of Immune Patrol.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health and Wellbeing
Executive Lead:	Jim McManus
Reporting Month:	July and August 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	16 September 2026
Board Meeting Date:	24 September 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Improvement Division

Tobacco Vaping Nicotine Addiction Prevention

Published:

- Cost of Smoking in Wales report, providing updated evidence to inform policy and system action.
- 2025 SHRN rapid analysis, showing reductions in smoking and vaping among children and young people.
- Evidence review on harm reduction and smoking inequalities to support evidence-informed action.
- Led all-Wales responses to UK and Welsh Government consultations on tobacco, vaping and nicotine control. Enhanced the HealthManager system, improving data quality, digital efficiency and pharmacy integration, with national roll-out underway. Completed implementation readiness for the enhanced vaping pathway for children and young people, pending final approval.
- Continued delivery of Help Me Quit services Q1 2026/27, Help Me Quit followed up 3,916 referrals, managed 2,179 calls, and created 2,120 client episodes. The National Telephone Support Service delivered 195 assessments and achieved 106 four-week quits.
- Strengthened the evidence base for tobacco control policy in Wales through research on young people's perceptions of Smokefree Generation and vaping restriction measures and the potential impact on future smoking and vaping behaviours.
- Informed Welsh Government policy development through the production of evidence reviews on expanding smoke-free environments and extending protections to vape-free public spaces.

- Featured in the Public Health Network Cymru E-Bulletin 'Adversity and Health: How Wales is Supporting Healthy Ageing', showcasing the Help Me Quit proactive re-engagement approach. Approximately 2,400 former service users will be contacted over a 10-month period to provide renewed opportunities to quit smoking.

Obesity Prevention and Healthy Weight Systems and Pathways

- Established programme of work for Obesity Prevention with Innovation funding, with first board and first reporting meeting with Innovate UK.
- Representation at the RSPH/NSWA Hydration and Health Roundtable
- Disseminated Draft Case for Change for the Out of Home Food Environment for comment.
- Facilitated CMO Annual Report workshops.
- Commissioned Rapid Impact Evaluation of PiPYN.

Physical Activity

Draft core content development for the Daily Active 8 Domains digital resource has begun and will be quality assured by the Daily Active Project Group (PHW & Sport Wales) before further content development by Youth Sports Trust. Response to '*Commission for information 1: Daily Active delivery through the WNHWS*' has been completed for Welsh Government. Active Mile (Wales) workshop facilitated by the Physical Activity Programme, with Welsh Athletics, Sport Wales, The Daily Mile Foundation, London Marathon Foundation and Welsh Government in attendance, to develop a collaborative approach to promoting, and evaluating the Active Mile in Wales.

Mental Wellbeing Programme

On-going collaboration with Arts Council for Wales, Wales Arts, Health and Well-being Network and the Future Generations Office to deliver Cynefin: A Creative Health Review for Wales.

Early Years and Child Health

Breastfeeding Welcome Schemes: Real Stories, Real Impact webinar delivered with speakers from across the UK to support development of local and national breastfeeding welcome schemes in Wales.

Healthy Working Wales

- 'HWW Live! In Cardiff' event held with 38 employers in attendance
- HWW [breastfeeding toolkit](#) and employer recognition badge launched
- HWW Breastfeeding in the workplace (48 attendees) and Nature connectedness at work (80 attendees) webinars held
- HWW and RSPB Workplace [Nature Wellbeing Calendar](#) launched
- HWW [Peer Mentoring Programme](#) first cohort launched with 6 employers
- HWW [First Steps workshop](#) held with 8 employers
- Healthy Working Wales hosted an employer in-person event, two webinars, one workshop, launched a breastfeeding toolkit and workplace nature wellbeing calendar (with RSPB), and launched the first Peer-mentoring Programme cohort.

Alcohol Drugs and Gambling harm prevention

The voluntary sector grant programme to reduce gambling harms was launched in partnership with WCVA. The drug and alcohol team established a lived experience panel to continue to advise on the work programme.

Social Marketing and Parent Information

Hapus promotion featuring bi-lingual ambassadors championing key actions to protect and promote mental wellbeing.

Healthy screentime and digital use for babies and children' finalised and work progressing to review evidence and engage stakeholders to inform the development of a position statement and guidance for parents, practitioners and early years settings.

Healthy Schools

Submitted plans and evidence to Welsh Government describing the delivery approach for the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Well-being (WSAEMW) programme.

Invited to showcase work in Wales at a European Healthy Schools meeting.

Primary Care Division

Prevention in Health and Care

Disease prevention

CVD Prevention: CVD Prevention Plan: Recommendations for Wales, published in July 2026. Recommendations socialised with partners. Discussions held with GMS partners regarding the ongoing monitoring and support for hypertensive patients treated to target following completion of the GMS QIP with proposal for development of CVRM dashboard to summarise ABCD Plus and CKD indicators.

AWDPP: AWDPP Protocol update drafted for publication end Sept 26, pending updated NICE guidance. Progressed economic evaluation aiming to share initial findings with stakeholders Oct 26. Progressed Audit+ SNOMED requirements with DHCW.

Life-course programmes

HWB after Pregnancy: Making the case for HWB after pregnancy report contents scoped. Contributed to women's health bid to WG to enable delivery of educational sessions for health and care staff to support prevention across the life course for women, to include health and wellbeing after pregnancy. Contraception After Pregnancy eLearning monitoring report for first two months of module data produced.

MSK Prevention & Improving physical activity: Engagement with system partners to scope a Wales MSK Prevention toolkit. SBAR drafted and shared with 4 nations colleagues on 'making the case for strengthened physical activity input to undergraduate healthcare curricula.'

Workforce and prevention

Social Prescribing and MECC/Healthy Conversations: Findings of financial wellbeing and social prescribing scoping review considered within PBHC framework and recommendations shared with PHW colleagues and Money & Pensions Service (MaPS). Support provided to MaPS on planning for Financial Wellbeing and Health Round Table meeting. ToR drafted for new

Healthy Conversations Coordinating Group (to meet in Sept 2026). Women's Health Fund bid submitted to WG to enable delivery of educational sessions for health and care staff to support prevention across the life course for women, to include MECC focus. Successful application for Spread and Scale Academy to develop healthy conversations approaches. National MECC legacy site closure finalised and successful migration of website content to PHW.

Return to work support: Action Call Briefing (ABC) for the AHP workforce being co-produced with the All-Wales AHP Health & Work Network, including overarching Health & Work vision and objectives, aligned to three Cbd shifts, alongside the identification of key actions, steps, and enablers framed within the PBHC framework. Multi-professional call for Work as a health outcome being drafted.

AHP & Prevention: Planning for the All-Wales Prevention and Public Health Steering Group to support delivery of the UK AHP Strategic Framework. Presented updates on the AHP Wales Work & Health agenda to the AHP Primary Care Strategic Leadership Group. Supporting the development of the Health Inequalities multiprofessional resource.

Prevention-Based Health & Care

Supported the development of the Community by Design 'Prevention and PHM' Strategic shift paper through drafting a paper articulating the key prevention interventions needed and roles/responsibilities of different parts of the system to inform the system design. Piloting PBHC tools and socialising within the system, to develop the MSK Prevention Toolkit, support MSK Allied Health Care Professional plan and support the development for actions of the National Falls Prevention Task Force.

Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care

PCD response fed in via PHW to [Consultation response: Senedd consultation on Climate Change, Environment, Sustainability and Rural Affairs Committee's future work programme](#)

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme

- Impact Dashboard for EDLT completed and reported cumulative detail.
- There was a cumulative total of 1,624 actions completed by 168 contractor teams as of 1 September for the 2025/26 cycle to date.
- August [E Bulletin](#) published, including a new case study.
- Continue to work with NHS Wales Shared Services to develop data dashboard for internal reporting requirements.
- Primary Care requirements in the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan 2025-2030](#) (inc participation in GrPC) presented to the Cluster Development Support Officer Networks.
- Head of Primary Care key contact identified and agreed with Peer Group to progress HB engagement.

Inhalers

- Final report of the Task and Finish Group completed and scheduled to go before the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group in October 2026.
- Inhaler KPIs to continue to be monitored via the restructured Clinical Services subgroup of the [Health and social care climate emergency national programme](#) board.
- [Comparative review of inhaler return, recycling and recovery schemes in the UK](#) (March 2026) completed and available on PHW webpages. Plans for peer review journal publication.
- Commissioner guidance for inhaler waste in development.
- Four nations network continuing and meeting planned for 1 Sept 2026.

Other medicines

- Report: Environmentally Sustainable Medicines Management in Wales Stakeholder workshop 17 March 2026 presented to AWMSG in July 2026 with AWTTTC to set up a short life working group with input from PCD.
- AMR project identified 364 tonnes CO2e saved, through following national antimicrobial guidelines (resulting in approximately 1.9 million few tablets / capsules prescribed, £234,000 saved and 860,000 antibiotic days avoided for the top 3 most prescribed antibiotics alone).
- Collaboration with PHW AMR team to prepare a briefing pack for Deputy WBFG Commissioner and support for the PHW led Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum event in October.
- Ongoing PH input to AWPAG and AWMSG Scrutiny Panel.

Primary Care Model for Wales

PCMW Evaluation Task and Finish Group met 20/08/2026 to develop a Theory of Change, refresh the PCMW Evaluation plan and develop evaluation components (3-month time scale for work reporting to PCMW workstream). Next meeting due 17/09/26. Plans for the fourth cycle of Peer review completed, paperwork shared and dates set (October and November)

Primary and Community Care SharePoint

The [Primary and Community Care SharePoint](#) has launched and is a stakeholder site for collaboration, sharing resources and learning. The site is aimed at those working within/ with Primary and Community Care, including Clusters, professional Collaboratives and partners

Public Health driven Primary and Community Care system by 2035

- Provided public health expertise to the Community by Design Transformational Shifts for Chronic Conditions and Urgent & Same Day care including:
 - Sharing evidence-based findings from the 2035 work, including the building blocks to deliver care closer to home and evidence informed actions to strengthen Continuity of Care with the transformational shifts (Chronic conditions and Urgent and same day care)
 - Providing public health expertise at the stakeholder workshop for chronic conditions (28/07/26)
 - Sharing the Case studies of regional work that has delivered care closer to home
 - Working with the shifts to apply a healthcare public health approach to the evolving work
- Collaborative work with the PHW Evidence Team to review the literature on Shifting management of chronic conditions from secondary care to community care, to develop an Evidence Map & Summary
- Collaborative work with the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Unit to advocate that a Health Impact and Equity Impact Assessments are undertake for Community by Design Model. The first

phase will be a high level HIA/ EIA on the Model (October 26) with ongoing work as the Health Board Regions deliver Community by Design

- The findings of the GMS QI survey were presented to the GMS Quality Assurance Committee 05/08/26, follow up work underway to provide public health expertise to improve the QI process, including the poster

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

- Supported the Cbd programme to shape the Population Health Management workstream
- Rebecca Bullingham and Michelle Hughes shortlisted for the RCN Nurse of the Year Award 2026, a joint nomination for the Improving Individual and Population Health Award. This is for the work implementing the Multi-professional Training and Capability Framework for Inclusion, Prison and Custody Suite Health Services in Wales and their wider nursing work within Inclusion Health.
- Continue to support implementation of GMS Inclusion health provision through regular engagement and support with services
- Approach agreed and progressing with plans to establish and launch a Health Inclusion Faculty for Wales & Community of Interest
- 'Equity focused interventions for reducing inequalities associated with waiting times in the NHS' report progressed
- 'Reducing Health Inequalities through medical education' options paper developed for Divisional SLT to review
- 'Improving Continuity of Healthcare for People in Contact with the Justice System in Wales' call to action report refined with further engagement with key stakeholders planned during September

Dental Public Health

- Continue to provide dental public health advice to Health Boards, WG, and HEIW as requested and needed e.g. development of e-module on health inequality targeted to primary and community care teams, Quality and Safety Meetings in Health Boards.
- Planning for Bi-annual Dental Quality and Safety Forum meeting (held on 3rd of Sept 2026) and planning including amendment of annual dental practice self-assessment to launch in Q3.

Dental Reform Programme

- National co-ordination, engagement with the key stakeholders and programme support to establish new workstreams and review new ToR for the multistakeholder programme board (Dental Strategic Oversight Group) including leading workstream on 'Population Health, Prevention and Inequalities in oral health'
- Following previously held Task and Finish Groups on introducing Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs) in primary care dentistry, A SBAR was presented to the dental reform programme board. it was agreed that two types of patient questionnaires will be developed and implemented: Urgent Dental Care and Routine Dental Care patient questionnaires. Dental PH team is currently working with the stakeholders esp NHSBSA to finalise those questionnaires to implement.

Oral Health Intelligence

- Data cleaning has been completed on all the clinical data collection forms for the oral health in care homes epidemiological survey. Next steps are to finalise the analysis scripts to run on all the clinical data sets completed for the 1,316 residents. Analysis of questionnaire data from care home managers re oral health has been completed. Agreement has been reached with the Older Persons Commissioner for Wales in August to run a joint workshop with key stakeholders to disseminate the findings of the survey in February 2027. Planning for the next Training and Calibration event for the 2026/27 survey of 12-year-olds is now complete.
- Dental extraction data has been analysed and a draft report has been written. This details referrals from General Dental Services and the level of extractions undertaken in secondary care under General anaesthesia for children. Across Wales the crude rate for dental extractions per 1,000 children has increased from the previous year, but is still below the level recorded before the pandemic. Rates across the Health Boards in Wales are varied. Referrals for this service are higher than pre-pandemic levels but appear to have plateaued from the previous year.
- Discussions are underway with the Chief Dental Officer to develop a set of Causal Loop Diagrams to highlight factors that influence the oral health of older people living with frailty at home. A PH Bulletin on this topic was written by the Chief Dental Officer and Paul Brocklehurst and was submitted and accepted in August.
- Documentation to support a Ministerial Direction has been completed to facilitate the determination of the legal ownership of NHS Business Service Authority dental data (all NHS primary dental care activity in Wales) to promote data linkage to support Population Health Management and Community by Design.

Oral Health Improvement

- Gwên am Byth programme annual report published in July 2026.
- DETECT study research project protocol and paperwork finalised. Discussion with and support obtained from national safeguarding team, data analyst, information governance team, collaborators, LHBs and DLT. Completion of IRAS application slightly delayed due to need for DPA as well as DPIA.
- Designed to Smile annual monitoring process started in July- data submitted for 1630 settings. Cleaning was completed in August, and analysis started. Aim to publish programme report in October/November.

Wider Determinants of Health

Public Health Network Cymru - The network has started a mechanism to move from the insight provided by webinars to action that practitioners can take in practice. Two insight to action sessions were held during this period, focusing on 'building strong foundations in early childhood' and 'breastfeeding welcome schemes'.

Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales Programme - As Shaping Places enters its final delivery quarter, the programme has moved to a peer-led learning of applied systems thinking with the practice group. The programme continues to support effective Public Service Board development, in collaboration with Welsh Government and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner. It is developing programme evaluation including contribution story, contribution analysis workshop with stakeholders.

Other - Providing evidence and direction for wellbeing plans and health impact assessment implementation, a collection of [web based resources on wider determinants](#) have been published. These cover the major building blocks of health, why they matter, and what needs to happen. It also covers Public Health Wales's contribution from across the organisation. These will be tested and developed further informed by user feedback.

Successes

Health Equity Wales/Marmot nation - Analysis from the first Local Authority learning event in July found strengthened local authority peer connections, increased understanding of what delivers health equity and provided practical frameworks for application and commenced co-design of future sector led learning. Seven Marmot councils in Wales and three from across the UK benefited. It is an early step in the establishment of a learning system for the Health Equity Wales initiative, with WLGA and SOLACE. The work continues with a reference group for learning needs assessment established, and surveys and interviews being undertaken to shape future support for local authority led work action on health equity.

Prevention in Health & Care

- [Supporting Healthy Behaviours](#) resource for Community Pharmacy published and disseminated
- [CVD Prevention Plan: Recommendations for Wales](#) published and disseminated.

Angharad Wooldbridge accepted onto the UK Public Health Practitioner Scheme 2026/27. Michelle Hughes, Inclusion Health Framework Implementation Lead Primary Care Division has been shortlisted for the Royal College of Nursing 'Improving Individual and Population Health Award.'

Any Concerns being managed:

Directorate - New programme for government presents opportunities and challenges for delivery.

Health Improvement-

Contracts for the HIPAS system have been managed but ongoing costs associated with the system and alongside working to ensure that the deliverables for HMQ which were originally planned for the system are delivered as part of planned work.

One supplier procured via PHW frameworks has gone into administration, this affects Healthy Weight Healthy You and work is being undertaken with suppliers.

Wider Determinants of Health Unit - Public Health Network Cymru –Concerns over website support following transition from microsite to main website, once Empyrean support no longer in place.

AWDPP- Whilst short term funding has been secured for 2026/27, plans for expansion and sustainable delivery of the programme remain uncertain- health board reporting requirement now includes a summary on business case progress to enable monitoring.

MECC – Access to analytical support to provide monthly updates of data to the performance management dashboard remains an issue. Plans to further develop the Power BI dashboard to

incorporate evaluation data from Civica and integrate Ty Dysgu completion data not feasible without analytical support.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Health Improvement Division

- Planned Autumn launch of Active Mile
- Completion of plans for Out of Home Food environment and case for action
- Healthy Weight Systems presentations at ASO conference.
- Oct Ripple Effect Mapping workshop & Out of Home Food Levers workshop with strategic system partners and launch of the TTPH survey results
- Autumn launch of initial OPIP pathway pathway
- 'Health and Sustainable Communities' webinar in Sept will feature a talk from the Minister for Culture and Sport. In-person event in Sept in Neath Port Talbot will focus on 'Preventing Ill-Health' with the Minister for Public and Preventative Health opening the event.
- Campaign launch in October for Healthy Weight Healthy You
- Campaign burst for Help Me Quit 'Break Its Hold'
- Phase 1 programme report delivered on improvement actions to reduce smoking in pregnancy
- Publication of findings of survey of children and young people on awareness of and attitudes to smokefree generation legislation and new restrictions on vapes in Tobacco & Vapes Act
- HMQ app vaping cessation extension in Oct, intending to align with ban on sales of all nicotine products to under 18s coming into force (29 Oct)
- Infant Feeding Bright Spots event in October
- HWW launch of Ready, Set, Thrive workshops for 16-24 year olds (Sept)
- HWW First Steps workshop 2 (Oct)
- HWW Peer mentoring cohort 1 - workshop 2 (Oct)
- HWW Webinar - In Work Support Services (Oct)
- Publishing a Curriculum Resource Toolkit for schools on Tobacco and Nicotine
- Publishing Annual reports for WNHWS, HSPSS, WSAEMWB and Just B

Prevention in Health & Care

Disease prevention

CVD Prevention: Develop detailed PHW workplan to support implementation of the CVD Prevention recommendations. Explore proposal for GMS QIP focused on Cholesterol prevention. Continue to develop indicators for CVRM dashboard to be embedded within the GMS Contract Assurance Framework. Present 'Prevention in Primary Care: CVD and CKD' at Cardiff and Vale CPET events in September. Facilitate discussions re CVD prevention at Stroke Senedd event on 3 November 2026.

AWDPP: Secure MI training dates for additional delivery staff, finalise economic evaluation for publication Dec 26, update and integrate EMIS search & data entry templates, updates to desktop resource and training protocol.

Life-course programmes

HWB after Pregnancy: Progress planning for health & wellbeing after pregnancy sessions for health and care staff to support prevention across the life course for women. Meeting of Health and Wellbeing After Pregnancy Steering Group to be held, and 'Making the Case' report progressed

MSK Prevention & Improving physical activity:

Convene MSK prevention Steering Group – agree MSK Prevention outcomes and scope of MSK toolkit. Of Draft contents MSK prevention toolkit, working with subject matter experts.

Complete first draft with 4 nations colleagues of SBAR for UK CMOs on 'Strengthening the physical activity component of undergraduate health care curricula: a four nations approach'

Workforce and prevention

Social Prescribing and MECC/Healthy Conversations: Progress planning for educational sessions for health and care staff to support prevention across the life course for women. First meeting of Healthy Conversations Coordinating Group

Return to work support: Continue coproduction of Action Brief Call for AHP workforce through workshops and meetings. Review of draft of SBAR on 'return-to-work support' before sharing with stakeholders in PHW. Share drafted multi-professional call for Work as a health outcome to be recognised with stakeholders within PHW with plans to share this with WG colleagues.

AHP & Prevention: First All-Wales AHP Prevention and Public Health Steering group planning for the 22nd October 2026. Continue support on the multiprofessional health inequalities package.

Prevention-Based Health & Care - Support the Chief Pharmaceutical officer's team to develop a systematic approach to consider future universal and targeted opportunities for prevention in the pharmacy contract. Continue to support Prevention & PHM shift of CbD.

Primary Care Model for Wales - Plans for the fourth cycle of Peer review to be presented at the Primary Care Leadership Group 04/09/26 and to Vice Chairs Peer Group 09/09/26. The fourth cycle of Peer Review is due to take place in October and November.

Primary and Community Care SharePoint - Ongoing work to populate the [Primary and Community Care SharePoint](#)

Public Health driven Primary and Community Care system by 2035

- Provided public health expertise to the Community by Design Reference and Advisory group, and the Chronic Conditions and Urgent & Same Day care Transformational shifts, including:
 - A member of the Reference and Advisory Group
 - A member of the Chronic Conditions working group
 - Member of the co-production workshop for Urgent & same day transformational shift
- Undertake a scoping and desk top HIA and EIA of Community by Design
- Deliver a HIA/ EIA session with Community by Design stakeholders (October 26) with ongoing work to advocate for Health Board Regions to complete HIA/ EIAs when delivering Community by Design

- The preliminary findings of the Continuity of Care (CoC) year one (process) evaluation will be presented to the GMS QI COC working group on 16/09/26

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

Develop and share communications to promote the Health Inclusion Summit being held in February 2027. Launch of Community of Practice and Advocacy for Inclusion Health. Teg I Bawb Evaluation plan to be presented to the DsPH on 18th September as part of the work to establish robust monitoring of the action plan.

Dental Public Health - All Wales Training and Calibration event for school year 7 dental health survey to be held in October.

Wider Determinants of Health

Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales - End of programme celebration event for learning group on 29th September in Cardiff. Contribution analysis commences as part of programme evaluation. Co-developing a prototype systems thinking decision aid with learning group participants to support them in selecting appropriate tools given the complex challenge they are trying to address and the time and the resources available. This will support the legacy of the programme equipping learning group members and others in effective decision making on wider determinants of health.

Health Equity/Marmot - Health inequalities series begins 30 September 2026 in collaboration with Welsh Government and Institute for Health Equity, hosted by Public Health Network Cymru. Lead collaborative design of health equity learning system for Wales informed by survey analyses, learning event and local insights.

Public Health Network Cymru - In addition to the health inequalities webinar launch, other topics to be covered include Building Health into Decisions: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and the Regulations in Wales 2nd September. Developing and Implementing a National Gambling Harms Prevention Programme for Wales 23rd September.

Worklessness of Public Health Concern - Planning for Pan Wales Employability and Health forum design workshop with Welsh Government and Department of Work and Pensions. Development of internal theory of change supported by Improvement and Innovation Hub. Draft knowledge article/s to inform local and national government decisions on worklessness and health as part of wider determinants co-ordinated resource offer.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance
Executive Lead:	Claire Birchall, Executive Director
Reporting Month:	July and August 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	16 September 2026
Board Meeting Date:	24 September 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month(s):

Oversees Nursing Student visit: on 14th July 2026, Public Health Wales was privileged to welcome nursing students from Grenada hosted by Cardiff University for an afternoon of shared learning, professional exchange, and collaboration. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the breadth and impact of public health nursing across Wales, covering areas including health protection, antimicrobial resistance, vaccination programmes, health inequalities, compassionate leadership, and global health.

Advanced Leadership in Nursing Practice Programme: we are delighted that 13 learners have now passed this Programme which was designed to support registered nurses develop skills in leading and managing themselves and their teams to deliver excellent patient centred care.

SimpleDo Idea Hub challenge: since launching in June 2026, 61 new users have signed up to SimplyDo, bringing a total of 645 registered users with an increase in active users on the platform (33 in June to 118 in July). Three introductory webinars on the challenge were held on the 14th, 16th and 22nd July. The questions raised by participants also helped inform the development of an FAQ document. Further information about the challenge along with a webinar recording and the FAQ document is available on the SimplyDo intranet page here: [SimplyDo](#).

Public Health Wales internal Flu Campaign for 2026/27: more than 180 people joined a Public Health Wales webinar held on 10th August to mobilise support for this year's vaccination campaign. The [webinar](#) marked the release of four audience-specific communications toolkits to support local efforts to increase flu vaccination uptake. The communications team shared an overview of the campaign planned for later this year, which will use targeted digital advertising, radio, news, social media, and third sector and influencer partnerships.

Information Governance: a three year Information Governance Plan has been drafted and is currently under consideration by the Public Health Wales Information Security Board and Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO).

Risk Management: the Risk Management Development Plan has been replaced by a Risk Management Maturity Plan, which has been approved by BET and Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.

National Safeguarding Service annual report: the National Safeguarding Service (NSS) published the NHS Wales Safeguarding Network annual report for 2025/26, a copy of which can be found [here](#).

Implementation of the Datix Safeguarding Module: the NSS continue to lead the project to progress national implementation, anticipating timelines for NHS organisations actively using the module and 'live' by January 2027.

Successes:

People's Experience Framework: early impact of the Framework is already being seen across Public Health Wales. By taking a whole-organisation approach, built on shared ownership and collective action, we're creating a culture where people's experiences and feedback help shape everyday learning, improvement and decision-making. One example is Diabetic Eye Screening Wales (DESW), which received over 8,000 feedback responses in just six months (December 2025 to May 2026) sharing information on how insights could help to identify improvement opportunities, involve staff in shaping change, and strengthen a culture of listening and learning across the service.

National Safeguarding Service staffing: two Safeguarding Lead Practitioners started with the team in August 2026. Additionally, the NSS have successfully recruited to the National Lead Safeguarding GP post, due to commence in November 2026.

NQIG Policies and Procedures library launch: the introduction of the NQIG Policy / Procedure Update Library in August 2026 has strengthened oversight and governance of NQIG-owned corporate policies and procedures by providing a structured process for monitoring review progress, recording key milestones, and ensuring timely completion of updates. This will improved directorate assurance, accountability, and compliance through consistent management and reporting of policy and procedure review activity.

Any Concerns being managed:

PHW Internal Flu Campaign: having undertaken a recent procurement exercise, a new flu voucher scheme supplier has been selected, but NQIG are aware there has also potentially been some delays in community providers securing their flu vaccine stock and this may impact on this voucher scheme.

WAST SLA Occupational Health and delivery of flu vaccines to PHW staff: provision of flu clinics, whilst expected to be better than 2025/26 (Tuesdays and Thursdays) is still limited. The data collection set up does not appear to be any different than 2025/26 by our OH providers and this may well cause reporting challenges.

Sexual Health Service: corporate safeguarding support has been requested and supplied two days a week for operational service delivery within the Sexual Health Test and Post Service thus reducing capacity within the safeguarding corporate team.

Information Governance: Public Health Wales is experiencing a growing volume and complexity of Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests, including requests generated using artificial intelligence. This is placing increasing pressure on available resources and reducing capacity to respond effectively.

Forward Look of key activities for next month (September):

National Safeguarding Service: Dr Bethan Williams will present a national report on Looked After Children CIVICA survey findings (year 1) to the British Association for Community Child Health 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting in September 2026.

Duty of Quality Annual Report: considerable work has been undertaken to collate examples showcasing how the Duty of Quality is demonstrated by Public Health Wales, and the third Duty of Quality Annual Report covering 2025/26 will be published in October 2026, following receipt at Business Executive Team and Board in September.

National QI Week 2026: *Celebrating change, sharing learning, and improving together* As part of National QI Week (14th – 18th September 2026), there are over 40 different webinars being hosted by different NHS organisations that are open for PHW staff to join and sign up to. Further details can be found at: [QI Week | The Academy of Research and Improvement](#)

Internal Leadership changes within Public Health Wales: preparations continue in relation to the internal movement of Risk Management and Information Governance to the Board Business Unit, and the onboarding of the Improvement and Innovation Hub into the Quality Management Division.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Policy and International Health
Executive Lead:	Sumina Azam
Reporting Month:	July 2026 to October 2026 (M04-M07)
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	16 September 2026
Board Meeting Date:	24 September 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

We have recently published a suite of resources to strengthen understanding of how gender equity influences health and health inequalities in Wales (also see Successes section – *Why gender matters: Child poverty and health inequalities*).

A Gender Equity Perspective in Reducing Economic Inactivity

This narrative gives a gender lens to women's economic inactivity in Wales, exploring health-related drivers and opportunities for policy action across health, economic and social policy. It highlights approaches such as gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting and wellbeing economy principles.

Supporting Health Impact Assessment in practice and the HIA Regulations (Wales) 2025 implementation

WHIASU published a Briefing Paper on Spatial Planning and Health [How does Wales' planning system impact on the health and wellbeing of the population?](#) in collaboration with the NHS Confederation. It provides a strategic overview of the importance of spatial planning to public health and equity including the use of HIA, as part of their 'Explainer' series for new Members of the Senedd. A new HIA report on the health impacts of the [Sentencing Act 2026](#): Impacts on Provision of Healthcare in Wales was published in collaboration with the Communicable Disease Health Inclusion team. The report considers the implications on health and equity of the (then) proposed prison and probation reforms.



Stakeholder engagement on adversity and health in later life in Wales

The Specialist Projects Team and Public Health Collaborating Unit presented their work on adversity and health in later life at a Public Health Network Cymru webinar and at the Older People's Commissioner's Age Friendly Community of Practice.

The stakeholder sessions highlighted the impacts of later life adversity on older people's health and well-being, with a focus on the findings of recently published work: a [national population survey](#) of adults aged 60+ exploring exposure to adverse experiences (including abuse, poverty and loneliness and social isolation) and their impact on health and wellbeing; a [synthesis of knowledge and practice](#) on social isolation, loneliness and social connection in Wales; and evidence from [lived experience interviews and in-home temperature monitoring](#) with a sample of low-income households in Wales.

<https://publichealthnetwork.cymru/event/adversity-and-health-in-later-life-insights-from-research-in-wales/Adversity and Health in Later Life: Insights from Research in Wales - Public Health Wales>

3 - Promoting healthy behaviours

The Cost of Smoking in Wales

Led by the Well-being Economics and Value (WEAVE) team in collaboration with Health Improvement (Help Me Quit), the report provides evidence for action to reduce the health, financial, social, wider economic and environmental burden of smoking. It estimates that smoking costs Wales £1.56 billion annually, including £650 million in health and social care. It highlights smoking prevalence is more than three times higher in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived, resulting in substantially higher smoking-related costs in the most deprived communities. Findings are shared with and informing decisions of NHS Wales, UK and Welsh Government, and Health Board public health teams.

5 – Delivering excellent public health services

Social value (SV) of maternal influenza vaccination

As part of the WEAVE Team's joint work with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Anna Stielke has led a Social Return on Investment (SROI) study of maternal influenza vaccination in Ecuador. Through stakeholder workshops involving policymakers, healthcare professionals, academics, and programme beneficiaries, it explored the wider social, economic, and health benefits and outcomes. The findings will inform policy and investment decisions in Ecuador, the wider PAHO region, as well as bring helpful learning to Wales in this area of work.



6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

Lead the co-ordination and delivery of the climate change strategic route map

The Health and Sustainability Hub delivered a workshop to discuss progress to date and the implications of a new Government on climate change work, with the aim of identifying future priorities. The workshop included an in-person screening of the National Emergency Briefing and short Q&A session on what this means for our work. The event was attended by over 30 members of staff, with outputs informing discussions at a future Climate Change Programme Board.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

International Health Insights (Horizon Scanning) Reports on Public Health Nursing and Diabetic Eye Screening

Developed in collaboration with partners and leads across the organisation and the wider NHS, the reports draw on global evidence and country examples to inform policy, workforce planning and service transformation and innovation in Wales. Findings show that while public health nursing roles vary across health systems, they share consistent core functions (prevention, early intervention and tackling inequalities) and face major workforce, education and regulatory challenges.

Diabetic eye screening key findings cover intervention components, organisational models, workforce and delivery settings, managing demand, future innovation and addressing inequalities.

International Learning to Inform the Southwest Wales (SWW) Regional Health Economy (RHE) Long-Term Plan

On 22 July, the WHO Regions for Health Network (RHN) in partnership with Policy and International Health and the SWW Regional Joint Committee (RJC) – RHE group, hosted a webinar on translating well-being economy (WBE) principles into practical action at a local level. It focused on improving health, well-being, equity, sustainability and resilience through regional collaboration. Speakers from Utrecht (Netherlands), Trondheim (Norway), the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development and SWW shared experiences with around 50 participants across Europe: [BUILDING THRIVING, EQUITABLE REGIONAL HEALTH ECONOMIES in PRACTICE | July 2026](#)

NHS Wales International Health Activity Group (IHAG)

The International Health Activity Group (IHAG) is a collaborative network of international health professionals, academic and third sector partners and Welsh Government representatives, led by the International Health Coordination Centre (IHCC). This quarterly meeting was attended by 11 representatives from across PHW, Health Boards and third sector partners. The Director of Health,

Future Generations Commissioner's Office presented their work on prevention, and the group provided input to a revised framework for action.

Behaviour Change Agents; Learning Transfer Day: from 'knows how' to 'shows how'

The Behavioural Science Unit hosted a one-day *Learning Transfer* workshop as part of the new Behaviour Change Agents (BCA) Programme. Fully interactive, the session aimed to facilitate participants' transition from theoretical learning to the application of behavioural science in their delivery. The session was attended by 25 stakeholders including: Welsh Government, Health Boards, NHSP&I, Local Authorities, HEIW, DHCW, TFW. Evaluation showed that participants had developed knowledge of the tools and methods to apply to elicit required behaviours. Individual support is offered for the next phase and has begun with a number of participants.

Behavioural Science Community for Wales

The Behavioural Science Unit hosted a webinar for the Behavioural Science Community for Wales, aiming to provide knowledge, demonstration and motivation to use behavioural science in user-centred design and digital interventions to optimise outcomes for better health. Speakers from NHS England Behavioural Science Team and Public Health Wales' User Centred Design Team shared insights and inspiration from their own work. There were 60 participants from five health boards, Welsh Government, NHSP&I, three Welsh Universities, WLGA, local government, Transport for Wales. Following the webinar, work has commenced on adding behavioural science to waiting list validation communications with Cardiff and Vale UHB.

Visiting Professorship at Bangor University

Brendan Collins, Head of Health Economics and Modelling in the WEAVE Team gained an Honorary Visiting Professorship at Prisygol Bangor School of Health Sciences, in recognition of his continued collaboration with the university, Health and Care Economics Cymru, and work in Wales over the last seven years leading on health economics in Welsh Government and Public Health Wales.

Successes

Why Gender Matters: Child Poverty and Health Inequities

This report examines how gender, intersectionality and wider socioeconomic factors contribute to child poverty and health inequalities, identifying policy options for a more gender-responsive, system-wide approach in Wales.

The report demonstrates how gender inequalities exacerbate across the life course, starting with the impact of becoming a parent. The economic consequences for women of having children change across the life course, such as childcare costs, limited state support in the early years, and unequal take up of parental leave, known as the 'motherhood penalty'. By contrast, men's economic outcomes tend to be insulated from fatherhood. Also in the working world, women are overrepresented in part time, low paid and insecure roles. In later life, there are gender gaps in savings, wealth and pensions are compounded, impacting the long-term financial security of women.

Trauma-Informed Wales and Partners Summer Engagement Events

Trauma-Informed Wales, the delivery programme co-led by ACE hub Wales and Traumatic Stress Wales took our #Time to be Kind campaign – 'Kindness. Everybody's Business' to new audiences at the Royal Welsh Show, engaging rural and farming communities, and the National Eisteddfod, exploring how our work connects and supports better understanding of how a trauma-informed Wales is one that connects to Welsh language, culture and identity.

Across the two events, more than 1,000 people took part in interactive activities and meaningful conversations exploring what kindness means to them and how we can all contribute to building a kinder, more trauma-informed Wales. Visitors engaged with kindness stations, explored a range of resources, and spoke directly with team members and partner organisations about trauma-informed approaches, public health and kindness.

Any Concerns being managed:

Migration of a number of specialist Directorate digital products remains dependent on identifying sustainable technical solutions that meet user requirements. Mitigations are in place through agreed arrangements, dedicated working groups and review processes, with progress being monitored through governance structures.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

- An evaluation is underway of the Public Health Advocacy Programme, focusing on the development, implementation and impact of the 'Five Policy Priorities'.
- Women's Health Plan Oversight Group will now be Chaired by Sumina Azam as SRO. Directorates are invited to join these meetings to give updates and coordinate action.

- Building Health into Decisions: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and the Regulations in Wales Webinar will be delivered in partnership with Welsh Government and in collaboration with Public Health Network Cymru.
- Seminar to be delivered at Health and Justice conference on the potential health impacts of the Sentencing Act (2026), in collaboration with the Communicable Disease Inclusion Health Team, HPSS Directorate.
- There will be a rolling programme of Introduction to Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and HIA Regulations in Wales Training, with 276 people registered to date.
- Presentation of planning and health and the use of HIA and HIA Regulations at a European webinar hosted by Aviero University, Portugal.
- Delivery of HIA and Planning and health integration to be presented to elected members in Pembrokeshire Local Authority.

2 – Promoting mental and social well-being

- Violence Prevention: Publication of a WHO INSPIRE social determinants framework paper, reviewing the impact of policy and legislation on the social determinants of violence against children and informing action to end violence against children.
- Karen Hughes will be participating in a House of Commons panel discussion on the impact and prevention of childhood verbal abuse in education, bringing together leaders from education, research and safeguarding to discuss emerging evidence and policy implications.
- Findings from research on later-life adversity, abuse and wellbeing in older adults in Wales will be presented at Safety 2026, the WHO co-hosted World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, highlighting Welsh evidence on a global stage and informing international discussions on prevention and public health policy.

6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

- Evaluation of the Business Travel Policy, including a staff survey, focus groups and business expenses analysis, to assess implementation and impact on reducing travel-related greenhouse gas emissions and to inform future policy development.
- Organisation-wide climate change risk assessment and adaptation planning through staff engagement workshops to identify key climate-related risks to health, service delivery, infrastructure, workforce resilience and community wellbeing.

7 – Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy



Scaling the Behaviourally Informed Communications Initiative to support delivery

- The Behavioural Science Unit are working closely with two health boards to co-develop and test a scalable model for our Behaviourally Informed Communications Initiative (BICI).
- A stakeholder delivery kit and guidance is being co-produced, to enable partners to deliver their own BICIs aiming to improving outcomes from direct public communication.

International Insights

- International Health Insights (Horizon Scanning) report on Prevention Spend and Investment.
- NHS Wales International Health Activity Group (IHAG) quarterly meeting (October) and International Health Newsletter (September).

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	People & OD
Executive Lead:	Neil Lewis
Reporting Month:	July - August
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	16 September 2026
Board Meeting Date:	24 September 2026

Overview of Key Activities During July and August

- Both the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report and our More Than Just Words Annual Update for 2025 – 2026 will be published in September on our Welsh language webpage: [Y Gymraeg - Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru](#) / [Welsh Language - Public Health Wales](#)
- Public Health Wales colleagues from People and OD, VPDP, Hapus, HARP, ACE Hub Cymru and Health Protection attended the 2026 National Eisteddfod in Pembrokeshire this year to promote Public Health Wales and the variety of our work and services. So that we can learn from our experiences of attending both the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod in 2026, a feedback form has been shared with all those involved to inform improvements for 2027.
- The Welsh Language Commissioner has launched a New Toolkit for Welsh language officers and compliance officers. The guide provides practical support for organisations to review their own arrangements, identify areas for improvement, share good practice, and take proactive steps to strengthen their Welsh language provision. The toolkit is available here: [Pecyn Cefnogi i Swyddogion Iaith](#) / [Support Pack for Language Officers](#) and has been shared with Welsh Language Group members within the organisation.
- Key campaigns and support cafes for staff were marked and held during July and August which included Parenting Plus (ND) Café, Moon Café and South Asian Heritage Month.
- In July, we received our first organisational Workplace Equality Standard (WES) report, which presents equity-focused analysis and highlights where

staff experience differs by protected characteristic, where intersections deepen disadvantage, and where the organisation has the strongest opportunities to act. A paper will go to BET to in October to present the findings.

- In August, work began with Income Data Research (IDR) on our Gender, Ethnicity and Disability Pay Gap report. This important piece of work will provide a detailed analysis of pay disparities across our workforce, helping us better understand where inequalities exist and informing targeted actions to address them.
- Continued development of the organisations' Early Careers offer, including refreshed information and internal resources to improve visibility of apprenticeships and early-career opportunities and support directorates in developing future talent pipelines.
- We held a policy review workshop with colleagues and Trade Union partners to review the My Contribution Policy and shared the updated policy with all colleagues for consultation.
- Leadership and Management Academy - onboarding Leadership and Management Academy Cohort 10 (North Wales) completed, Cohorts 8 and 9 completed the formal learning programme and joined the Leadership Community of Practice. Deep Dive #8 'Calling out negative behaviours' took place on 20 July.
- Continued development of the People Manager Essentials programme, including presentation of an overview to BET.
- Discussed the Job Families approach with Leadership Team colleagues.
- Delivered the Wales UKPHR Practitioner Scheme Pre-Application Workshop and launched the application process.
- Continued support for the DHSC review of the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework.
- Successfully delivered the New Colleague Networking Event, providing an opportunity for new colleagues to connect, build networks and learn more about the organisation.
- Awarded High-Cost Training Funding applications to support colleague development and professional learning opportunities.
- Continued delivery of Personal Development Programme, Developing People Managers Programme and on-demand VinciWorks learning offer.
- Reviewed and updated plans for the 2026 NHS Staff Survey launch.
- Delivered the first wellbeing workshop for line managers and commissioned additional learning focused on bullying and harassment, including support sessions for parents and carers.
- Continued promotion of wellbeing resources and events, including support for breastfeeding employees.
- Progressed plans for a short mindfulness programme following the success of the previous cohort.

Successes

- Public Health Wales colleagues from People and OD, VPDP, Hapus, HARP, ACE Hub Cymru and Health Protection attended the 2026 National Eisteddfod in Pembrokeshire this year to promote Public Health Wales and the variety of our work and services

Any Concerns being managed:

None.

Forward Look of key activities for September

- In early September, we will receive our annual Welsh Language Standards self-assessment questionnaire from the Welsh Language Commissioners office. The questionnaire usually concentrates on a selection of the Welsh Language Standards only. The Welsh Language Team will use the evidence collated annually from Directorates to complete the questionnaire but may contact Welsh Language Group leads if further information or detail is needed.
- A quality audit of recruitment panel diversity will commence, providing additional assurance on the application of the organisation's inclusive recruitment expectations and identifying any areas for further improvement.
- Additional colleagues will be trained during September to act as diverse recruitment panel members, increasing the pool of staff available to support more representative recruitment panels.
- Applications to the UKPHR Practitioner Registration Scheme for Wales review panel will take place and places for 2026 intake confirmed.
- PHW Leadership and Management Academy – Cohort 10 launches on 2 September in North Wales and Deep Dive 9 (for all alumni) takes place on 10 September - Working on the gambling levy as a case study of experimentation, innovation and service design.
- As part of the agreed policy review programme, a number of collaborative workshops have been scheduled during September 2026 to review and refine key workforce policies and guidance. These sessions will be undertaken in partnership with colleagues and Trade Unions, supporting co-production and ensuring policies remain aligned with legislation, best practice and organisational culture. Areas under review include Agile Working, Employing Ex-offenders and People with a Criminal Record, Death in Service, Learning and Development, and the Mobilisation Procedure for enhanced and major incident response.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Research, Data and Digital
Executive Lead:	Iain Bell
Reporting Month:	August 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	16 September 2026
Board Meeting Date:	24 September 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month
<u>Research & Evaluation / Evidence</u> - Six Public Health Wales (PHW) staff signed up for the R&D Office Mentoring Support Programme to help them apply to the Health and Care Research Wales Faculty Personal Awards. - Draft Theory of Change (ToC) report for the Health Equity Wales initiative circulated to Welsh Government (WG) and stakeholders for review. Initial feedback very positive and shaping programme thinking. Final ToC report to WG by 30th September. <u>Data</u> - Data, Analysis, Registers and Cloud Programme (DARC) – Phase 1 of the Research, Data and Digital (RDD) migration is complete, with regular production of statistical outputs now being run on the cloud. This work includes producing



analysis, updating dashboards, and developing new features for publications in the autumn.

- The AI Design Authority approved: the use of Copilot in GitHub to support coding / software engineering: the procurement of an AI component in lung cancer screening computer-aided detection / volumetry procurement, subject to a more robust evaluation plan, and small amendments to the AI assurance specifications, and the ambient voice technology extended pilot for Breast Test Wales subject to final Information Governance and cyber sign-off.
- Provided outputs to support the population health profile within the Hywel Dda Director of Public Health's annual report.
- Development of a Rapid Cancer Dataset (RCD) in NDAP is underway.

Digital

- On time completion of Phase 1 of Digital Health Protection (DHP). The main element of Phase 1 is building the underlying infrastructure for DHP and proving cloud connectivity. Development pace has increased to ensure go-live of Phase 2 in January 2027 as scheduled with close attention being given to product development, readiness, and upcoming testing.

Registries

- Child Death Review Programme (along with Data Science and Analysis team) hosted two interns from the Health Data Research Black Internship Programme, completing rapid reviews on (i) sudden unexpected death in infancy 2016-2025 and (ii) deaths by suspected suicide in children aged 10-17 years, 2016-2025. To be published during the Autumn.
- Development of the DARC- R implementation plan with the support of programme management.
- WCISU NHS England workshop scheduled 13th October – to support WCISU project AI/LLM automation Population Based Cancer Registry workstream.

- Congenital Anomaly Register & Information Service (CARIS) - technical digital work completed to maintain radiology data flows from the Local Health Boards as part of DARC programme, and to address the live Datix risk in relation to losing this data source. Unblocking steps now being undertaken to allow implementation of the updated process.

Successes

Research & Evaluation / Evidence

- Awarded 3 new UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) Policy Fellowships to be hosted in PHW on: 1) genomics and prevention, 2) nature-based solutions to coal tips, 3) the social and economic costs of gambling. Commence in October 2027.
- Supported a successful Welsh Government application for a hosted UKRI Policy Fellowship on adaptation implementation core/natural hazards and resilience.
- Completed evaluation of the cell-free DNA (cffDNA) testing programme to assess its impact on anti-D use in Wales using interrupted time series and controlled interrupted time series designs. Following the transition to routine delivery, the fortnightly rate of anti-D injections ordered decreased by 17.3% (95% CI: -25.6% to -8.2%; $p < 0.001$), indicating a statistically significant reduction in anti-D use. This is consistent with the programme's aim of supporting more targeted prophylaxis and reducing unnecessary treatment for RhD-negative pregnant women carrying an RhD-negative baby.

Data

- Deep End Practices analysis – the Primary Care Clusters dashboard has been updated to include information on Deep End practices. These are a network of GP practices in Wales serving the most socioeconomically deprived communities, aiming to improve healthcare equity and support staff working under high-demand conditions.
- The impact of poor-quality clinical coding on the summary hospital-level mortality indicator (SHMI) - analysis was completed and shared with the deputy Chief Medical Officer (CMO).



- Analysis of waiting times – a technical report was shared with the CMO.
- Children and young people's health: A comprehensive assessment of data, analysis and evidence on children and young people was collated across PHW and shared with Welsh Government to inform the CMO's annual report. A presentation on the key points was delivered at the CMO's round table in August on this topic.
- Our two interns from the Health Data Research UK Black Internship Programme completed their projects where they developed skills in R and data visualisation. They both received commendations from HDR UK on their posters describing their project work.

Digital

- Successful delivery of DHP Phase 1 (IMTP Milestone). On time completion of DHP interim Welsh Government milestones 4,5,6 (approval of change plan, confirmation of digital standards, delivery of Phase 1).

Any Concerns being managed

- We have been unable to recruit a band 7 data engineer after 4 rounds of recruitment and will try alternative approaches to fill this post. The challenge is the low pay at that level of experience compared with the private sector, and that the entry point is below the threshold for visa requirements. Longer term, we will explore recruitment of data engineering apprentices, and the possibility of pay uplift for these hard-to-recruit roles (Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre has the same challenge) and review our recruitment process to ensure we attract suitable candidates.

Digital

- DHP Development for January go-live. Development resource has increased significantly but still requires close attention to ensure the build is completed at the end of September to allow sufficient time for testing ahead of go-live. Identified resources across PHW will need to be released to support testing and to undergo training.

Registries



- Increase in Freedom of Information (FOI) requests relating to chemical contamination and cancer in Wales following the broadcast of the Michael Sheen-presented BBC documentary.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Research & Evaluation / Evidence

- Research development aligned to strategic priorities
 - Inaugural meeting of research interested leads from the 7 local public health teams across Wales
 - Cross Public Health Wales workshops to refresh the Areas of Research and Evaluation Interest (2026).
- Climate change research steering group session to guide the analysis of the NHS heat health survey.
- Development of evaluation programme integrated into
 - Lung Cancer Screening
 - Smoking Cessation
 - My Path Cymru (including staff recruitment)
- Forthcoming publications planned include
 - Health Equity Wales Theory of Change
 - Research outputs on Children and Young People's Mental Health (17th of September)
 - Evaluation of Warm Wales

Data

- Public Health Outcomes Framework update will be published in September, CARIS, SHRN, and Cancer Incidence following in the late autumn.
- DARC – scoping and planning for the first two areas in Health and Wellbeing Directorate (HWB) will be completed. These are The National Exercise Referral System and Healthy Working Wales, both of which will be re-platformed to the cloud, allowing better access to and analysis of data. Further prioritisation of Health & Wellbeing migrations will take place in September. The Genomics



Phase 2 business plan will be presented to the DARC Programme Board in September.

Digital

- Completion of DHP built (end of September). Planning for readiness and go-live activities including detailed training plan. Recruitment of two business change facilitators to support this.

Registries

- Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) – Commencement of pilot projects with Department for Work and Pension and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service to establish whether we can improve RTSSS data on employment status/benefit usage & criminal and probation history.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Strategy, Finance and Performance
Executive Lead:	Zoe Pietrzak
Reporting Month:	July - August 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	16 September 2026
Board Meeting Date:	24 September 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Strategy & Planning

- Completed and submitted the IMTP addendum to Welsh Government in line with formal feedback received on the Board-approved plan.
- Completed and submitted the Q1 Baseline Review of the Strategic Plan (IMTP) to Welsh Government in line with the Public Health Wales Remit Letter 2026/27.
- Implemented a programme of work to address actions arising from the Q1 Baseline Review.
- Further developed the benefits realisation and business case frameworks.
- Progressed the development of Strategic Risk 5 (failure to transform our services) in collaboration with RDD and People & OD.
- Procured SRO Essentials training for potential future Senior Responsible Owners (SROs).
- Developed and delivered the SRO Overview Session for current SROs, including two initial training sessions.
- Progressed the development of SRO appointment letters for current SROs.
- Led and coordinated mobilisation activity for MyPath Cymru (Obesity Prevention), including establishing workstreams, convening a Programme Board, successfully submitting an initial monitoring return and providing additional BET assurance.
- Mobilised the Registers workstream within the DARC Programme, focusing on WCISU automation.

- Launched the Tackling Diabetes Together Point of Diagnosis Packs, supported by national media coverage.
- Launched the Gambling Harms Voluntary Sector Grant Fund, with an updated PID approved by the Gambling Harms Programme Board.
- The Tackling Diabetes Together Programme was shortlisted for an NHS Award in the Person-Centred Care category for its Point of Diagnosis Packs.

Communications

- Communications and Engagement continues to play a strategic role in supporting organisational priorities, public health outcomes and organisational change through targeted communications, stakeholder engagement, reputation management and behaviour change activity.
- Supported key public health priorities through communications, engagement and media activity, including the Hepatitis A outbreak in Barry, MenB vaccination, the Lower Your Risk diabetes prevention campaign, the Gambling Harms Voluntary Sector Grant Fund and preparations for the seasonal flu campaign.
- Delivered stakeholder engagement activity ahead of the flu campaign, achieving strong uptake of campaign resources and toolkits.
- Progressed implementation of the updated Social Media Strategy and advanced work relating to web governance, reporting and insight.
- Delivered communications and engagement support for the Staff Conference and Executive organisational changes.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Completed the 2025/26 Estates Performance Management System (EFPMS) return for Welsh Government and NHS Shared Services Partnership.
- Completed the estates contribution to the Public Health Wales Decarbonisation Report and Welsh Government sustainability reporting requirements for 2026/27.
- Issued the proposed cleaning specification for the Public Health Wales administrative estate for consultation with key stakeholders.
- Continued delivery of the Estates Capital Programme, with a number of projects completed in line with the agreed programme of work.

Finance and Performance

- Concluded the End of Year Directorate Performance Reviews across the organisation, celebrating successes and identifying opportunities for improvement in 2026/27.
- Led the review of programme activities, outputs and outcomes across Public Health Wales as part of the follow-up requirements arising from the Q1 Baseline Review, helping to strengthen understanding of service impact and resource utilisation.
- Developed an action plan to address improvement areas identified through the Grip and Control self-assessment.



- Implemented changes to the budgeting approach to support more transparent reporting of financial movements and timing shifts within directorate financial plans.

Successes

Communications

- Communications activity supporting the Hepatitis A outbreak response in Barry contributed to increased vaccine uptake, with almost 1,000 children vaccinated to date. Targeted media, digital and stakeholder communications secured widespread coverage and community reach.
- The MenB vaccination campaign generated more than 104,000 views, 719 interactions and 190 shares through a social-first approach designed to engage younger audiences.
- Pre-launch flu campaign engagement resulted in 1,164 toolkit downloads and almost 3,800 campaign resource downloads within four weeks.
- Corporate social channels gained 313 new followers during August, with strong engagement across public health and organisational content.
- Nearly 450 colleagues attended Staff Conference events across Wales, with positive feedback highlighting the focus on recognition, culture and prevention.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Two members of the team secured promotions following participation in the Directorate's mentoring programme.

Any Concerns being managed:

Communications

- Ongoing communications planning and media handling in relation to the forthcoming BBC Wales documentary *Buried*, including management of any associated reputational considerations.
- Capacity pressures are being actively managed as the team enters a busy autumn and winter period, with a significant programme of campaign, corporate and conference activity to deliver.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Managing staff vacancies arising from the promotion of two Band 3 team members through internal opportunities, alongside a vacancy in the Health & Safety team following the departure of a team member.
- Delays in securing agreement with the CQ2 landlord regarding service charge arrangements.
- Challenges in managing additional business activity resulting from the provision of reactive support across other areas of Public Health Wales.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Strategy & Planning

- Refresh Our Strategic Plan (IMTP) in line with the IMTP addendum.
- Submit additional information on the IMTP addendum and Baseline Review in line with Welsh Government requests.
- Implement the business case framework.
- Initiate scoping work around the optimisation programme.
- Produce briefings to support PHW meetings with Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.
- Develop and approve internal planning guidance to support the 2026/27 strategic planning process.
- Complete the Planning Maturity Matrix issued by Welsh Government.
- Establish a working group to prepare for the replacement of ESR.
- Deliver SRO Essentials training.
- Issue SRO appointment letters.
- Develop programme assurance plans.

Communications

- Launch and embed the updated Social Media Strategy.
- Establish the Web Estate Board and implement enhanced reporting and governance arrangements.
- Continue delivery of the web product roadmap.
- Support delivery of priority campaigns, including flu vaccination, HPV vaccination, student health and winter viruses.
- Progress development of the in-house Design Studio, including measures to demonstrate organisational value and efficiencies.
- Deliver communications and engagement activity for the Welsh Public Health Conference, a flagship event for Public Health Wales and a key opportunity to raise the organisation's profile, share learning and strengthen stakeholder engagement.
- Support the national flu vaccination media launch and commencement of winter viruses communications.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Complete the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and small works tender specifications and commence tendering to support all PHW estates work.
- Review the Government Energy Service estates review to develop an implementation plan aimed at supporting recommendations from the review.
- Issue tenders for the redesign of PHW accommodation at Matrix House to support the establishment of the Lung Screening Programme.
- Complete scoping work to inform Infection Services accommodation improvements.

Finance and Performance

- Submit supplementary information requested by Welsh Government as a follow-up to the Q1 Baseline Review.
- Prepare PHW's evidence submission for the Accountability Review Meeting with Welsh Government on 14 October.

- Prepare Financial Planning Guidance and commence central financial planning scenario modelling for early indications of the scale of the financial challenge for 2027 to 2030.
- Prepare for Directorate Mid-Year Performance Reviews.
- Hold meetings between the Director of Finance and individual Directors to assess financial position, forecasts and any mitigating actions required.