



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health Protection and Screening Services Directorate
Executive Lead:	Meng Khaw
Reporting Month:	May 2026 (retrospective April – forward look May)
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	20 May 2026
Board Meeting Date:	28 May 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Protection Division

- Continued response to the Sexual Health Testing and Postal Service incident.
- Investigation of Hepatitis A clusters.
- Led NHS Wales support to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) during a Meningococcal enhanced incident.
- Proactive public communications ahead of the reopening of petting farms to raise awareness of infection risks.
- Submitted the final revised Environmental Incident Management Guidance to Welsh Government.
- Revised Health Protection Senior Management Team membership, structure, and functions.

Infection Services Division

- Facilitated sealability remedial works and testing.
- Delivered awareness training on new regulations relating to 'Concerns', effective from April 2026.
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU) contributed to the Public Health Wales response to the Welsh Government consultation on Shaping the Future of Water Governance in Wales.
- Toxoplasma Reference Unit (TRU) working with UKHSA on an enhanced surveillance protocol.
- TRU contribution to European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases guidelines on management of congenital toxoplasmosis.

Screening Division

- Improvement plans being implemented and making good progress.
- Work on workforce planning including lunch and learn session with staff.
- Work to progress LIMS implementation continues.

- Besti Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU) working to realign assessment clinics to have more resilience in Wrexham.
- Preparation for staged mydriasis project in Diabetic Eye Screening Wales.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Initiated a Business Continuity Task & Finish Group to assess potential impacts of Middle Eastern Conflict for Public Health Wales.
- Work ongoing to support the Strategic Response Group (Business Continuity) for the Sexual Health Test and Post Service incident.
- Represented Public Health Wales across multiple strategic and operational fora, including the 4 Nations Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Group, Wales Lessons Management Group, Wales Community Resilience Group, NHS Wales groups such as Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response, Training and Exercising, system resilience structures, and a range of strategic, coordination, and hazard specific Local Resilience Forum (LRF) groups.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Joint Office of the Medical Director and Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance Clinical Governance Group to be agreed.
- Resident Doctor Contract Reform work continuing.
- Health Education and Improvement Wales Training programme review work continuing (including first draft of a regional and hybrid approach).

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics hackathon hosted in Cardiff. Acceptance of a genomics session at 5 Nations Health Protection Conference.
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme continuation of monthly check-in sessions and engagement with UK Health Surveillance Agency (UKHSA).
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme (HARP): Letters sent to health boards regarding ICNET contract after sign off from digital colleagues. The deadline has been extended due to lack of response.

Successes

Health Protection Division

- World Tuberculosis Day seminar successfully held.
- Sexual Health Case Management System, Alpha, completed
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccine effectiveness paper published in Lancet.
- Chair and Vice-Chair visit to Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances (WEDINOS) lab.

Infection Services Division

- Singleton Containment Level 3 (CL3) is now sealed.
- All Health and Safety Executive enforcement and outstanding Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations investigations by the Health and Safety Executive are now closed.
- Media tender, next step is award of tender.
- Virtual hospital event held on 20th March at Ysgol Cymraeg Ystalyfera where Pathology was brought to life within the school setting. Positive feedback from staff and pupils.

- The Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU) lab has been reconfigured and is more LEAN.
- The CRU lab has been thanked by the drinking water inspectorate for their role in outbreak investigation and witness statement provided by Rachel Chalmers. Successful prosecution for South West Water Ltd.

Screening Division

- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU) have confirmed that they will work in line with Breast Test Wales processes and surgeons have been asked to take referral of women with breast cancer from radiological lead clinics.
- Diabetic Eye Screening videos have been finalised that show the whole screening pathway.
- Breast Screening Mobile – Executive Incident Management Team (IMT) has now come to an end and work to be taken forward in line with recommendations.
- Business case submitted to Welsh Government for additional UK National Screening Committee recommended condition in Newborn Screening.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Delivery of Phase Two of the community workshops linked to the Inequalities in Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response project.
- Public Health Wales installed as Chair of the South Wales Local Resilience Forum (SWLRF) **NB.** *believed to be the first public health chair in the UK.*
- Public Health Wales attendance for the Wales Gold Course in the South Wales area (April 2026).
- Public Health Wales engaged in the Storm Claudia MA Debrief for the Gwent Region (Monmouth Flooding, November 2025).

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Office of the Medical Director jointly ran Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework Consultation Workshop for Wales.
- First Medicines Management Group meeting held.
- Engagement Approach agreed with Public Health Specialty Registrars regarding Public Health Wales development of Local Education Provider functions.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: Deployment of DSL2 pipelines. Plan agreed for a Genomics Research Day/showcase at 2 Capital Quarter in June.
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme (HARP): Phase 1 of MEDUSA project nearing completion. Phase 2 of cloud migration activities advancing while awaiting sign off of Phase 1.

Any Concerns Being Managed

Health Protection Division

- Health Protection Out of Hours (OOH) rota Respect and Resolution (R&R) issue ongoing.
- Environmental Public Health (EPH) OOH rota – options for in-house delivery being considered.

- Staffing levels in Health Protection Team and weekly prioritisation of workload.
- Concerns from the Sexual Health Team being managed jointly with Nursing, Quality & Information Governance (NQIG).

Infection Services Division

- One Rhyl autoclave is out of service and another needs parts.
- Sealability issues remain unresolved at Carmarthen and University Hospital Wales, exposing new vulnerable areas. Progress is under review.
- Temperature Monitoring business case has been discussed at Welsh Government, awaiting responses.
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU): Service Level Agreement proliferation and associated work and costs are of concern.
- CRU waiver document for the purchase of the Qiacube maintenance contract is awaiting sign off.
- Toxoplasma Reference Unit (TRU) appointment of Head of Unit.
- Operational inefficiencies linked to VISA regulations

Screening Division

- Screening Laboratory UK Accreditation Service visit has resulted in temporary suspension of associated accreditation for cervical screening activity.
- Significant backlog for breast screening appointments in North Wales. The impact of surgical capacity constraints on plans to recover the assessment backlog is being actively managed and has been escalated for action.
- Colonoscopy waiting times follow up to request recovery plans.
- Laboratory Information Management System (LIMs) implementation is working to new agreed date.
- Budget for 26/27 involves cost pressures.
- National Breast Screening System strategy for England requires consideration of impacts and the way forward for Breast Test Wales. Work to take forward upgrade to National Breast Screening System while working through the approach for a sustainable solution.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- EPRR continues to raise concerns about repeated misrepresentation of its remit and system requirements in Digital Health Protection (DHP) project documentation, requiring significant time to correct recurring inaccuracies. Despite repeatedly providing full-service requirements, there is a clear risk that Phase 1 and Phase 2 systems, which replicate existing functionality and introducing new functionality, will not be fit for purpose.
- Short-notice requests to support system preparedness being monitored. Risk of delay in delivery of internal workplans.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics digital work remains red but there is a pathway to green with the Disaster Recovery (DR) system now in place. Budget issues remain and will be reviewed going forward.

- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme: Audit+ is now to be discontinued in April 2027. Flu vaccination data was taken from Welsh Immunisation Service (WIS) which significantly improved records data and management.
- Project Support Officer from Directorate Operations Team is required to continue support in running the Health Protection Inequalities Programme.
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme: Current predicted cost pressure for 2026/27 of concern and to be managed.

Forward Look of Key Activities for Next Month

Health Protection Division

- Staff survey results to be discussed with teams and develop action plans.
- Sign off Substance Misuse Programme Level Agreement (PLA) for 26/27 and return to Welsh Government.
- Continue work within Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre on National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP)/ Data, Analysis, Registers & Cloud (DARC) project.
- Sexual Health Incident – continue actions to improve service.

Infection Services Division

- Progression of sustainability actions proposed from Green Labs Champions meeting.
- Review of business continuity plan in response to planned desktop exercises with Regional Managers, and feedback from Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response.
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU) progressing subtyping cluster analysis with UK Health Security Agency.
- Toxoplasma Reference Unit (TRU) appointment of business support officer (12-month secondment).

Screening Division

- Progressing implementation planning of National Lung Cancer Screening Programme.
- Agreeing approach to take forward implementation of recommendation from Incident Management Team Mobiles.
- Radiological lead clinics being taken forward in Llandudno.
- Implementation of Stage Mydriasis project in Diabetic Eye Screening Wales.
- Public Health Wales Breast Screening Review to share findings with Senior Management Team and Programme.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Work ongoing with NHS Wales to plan for the Health Prepared Wales 2026 Conference.
- Continued collaboration with the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) on the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) project.
- Readiness for Exercise PEGASUS – Phase 04, with work ongoing to ensure the team representing PHW are fully prepared for the event in June 2026.

- Prepare for and deliver a programme of activity linked to National Business Continuity Awareness Week (18–22 May 2026).

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Commissioned rota review to be undertaken by Medical Workforce Manager from Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
- Discussions to begin relating to Allied Health Professional student placements working in collaboration with Health Education and Improvement Wales.
- Continued focus on Resident Doctor Contract reform work ensuring readiness for introduction from 1 August 2026.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Completion of Genomics engagement podcasts in preparation for launch.
- The Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme will now be supporting the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Programme, COVID-19 Spring vaccinations, and preparations for the next flu season.
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme workforce transformation to continue with the support of the Infection, Prevention and Control Lead Nurse.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health and Wellbeing
Executive Lead:	Jim McManus
Reporting Month:	March and April 2025
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	
Board Meeting Date:	May 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Improvement Division

Tobacco Vapes and Nicotine Addiction

- Public Health Wales has launched the Help Me Quit (HMQ) app, a free bilingual digital tool providing 24/7, evidence-based support to help adults in Wales stop smoking, complementing existing cessation services. Launched on No Smoking Day 2026, the app addresses a key gap by offering accessible behavioural support for people less likely to use traditional services, using features such as personalised quit plans, progress tracking and AI-enabled support. It strengthens PHW's wider digital prevention offer and will continue to evolve, including the development of a vaping cessation extension.
- Tobacco Prevention creative campaign: Social media activity aimed at preventing the uptake of tobacco smoking amongst 18–24-year-olds.
- The Tobacco and Vapes Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026, introducing world-leading measures to protect children and young people, including a phased increase in the age of sale, tighter controls on vapes, and new powers for smoke- and vape-free spaces and retail licensing. Public Health Wales is working with Welsh Government and system partners to support implementation, maximise public health impact, and mitigate delivery risks across Wales.

Whole systems, pathway and healthy weight

- A data informed description of the out of home food environment and submitted to Welsh Government.
- Developed recommendations for system actions for the out of home food environment. These have been submitted to Welsh Government
- System partners are being consulted on draft recommendations for system actions for healthier hospital and public sector food.
- Co hosted a national event with Sports Wales, in dual locations (North and South Wales) the event showcased work across Wales in the 3 PIPYN pilot areas to enable system change for healthier environments for young children and their families supported by family based interventions for healthy weight. Speakers included Dame Tanni Grey Thompson and Pippa Britton.
- Article accepted for publication: Implementation evaluation of a whole systems approach (WSA) to childhood overweight and obesity in local communities: Findings from the Children and Families Pilot in Wales, UK"

Physical Activity

- Collaboration with Sports Wales has enabled direct support to be provided to early adopter test and learn phase schools to review and develop opportunities to improve opportunities for physical activity during the school day.
- Public Health Wales-led research published in the *Journal of Transport and Health* explores how more effective, strategic approaches to active school travel can be implemented across Wales to tackle children's physical inactivity. The study identified key barriers such as fragmented funding, siloed working and limited accountability, alongside enablers including shared priorities and strong leadership. Clear recommendations have been shared with stakeholders to support a more coordinated, system-wide approach with the potential to improve health and wellbeing.
- Completion of report on Phase 2 of the place-based approach for active school travel.

Gambling drugs and alcohol

- The Gamban App, software tool that helps people reduce gambling harm by blocking access to thousands of online gambling apps and websites across devices. It is widely used as a preventative and recovery support measure, often alongside treatment and support services has been procured for Wales.
- The Drugs and Alcohol needs assessment has been launched and work is being undertaken with partners to work on recommendations.

Mental Wellbeing Programme

- Key findings from the Babies, children and young people's mental health and wellbeing needs assessment presented to the Welsh Government Wellbeing Partnership Board to highlight areas of increasing concern and coalesce action across the system to improve action for babies, children and young people.
- A Cohort of cross-sector senior leaders have agreed to act as 'Champions' for the Cynefin initiative - a creative health review for Wales, which aims to produce policy recommendations for maximising the role of arts and health for population health and wellbeing in Wales by January 2027

Healthy Working Wales

- Welsh Government Trailblazer employers started their 'Workplace Wellbeing: First Steps' journey in March. These group sessions for employers commenced in March and focusing on keeping people at work healthy, especially after sickness absence.
- Public Health Wales completed a rapid evidence review on the health, wellbeing and employment challenges facing young people aged 16–24, to support Healthy Working Wales and partners in promoting sustainable, good-quality employment. The review found that mental health challenges, insecure work and fragmented support significantly affect young people's ability to enter and remain in work, with the strongest evidence supporting personalised, multi-component approaches. It sets out 16 evidence-informed recommendations for employers, policymakers, researchers and Healthy Working Wales to improve retention, progression and long-term outcomes for young people.

Early Years and Child Health

- Framework for Action - The Best Start in Life: The Power of High-Quality Play for Babies, Young Children and their Families.
- Work has begun to establish a new, 12-month grant-funded Infant Feeding Improvement Programme, supported by £100,000 awarded to the Public Health Wales Early Years and Children's Health Team. The programme will strengthen system-wide approaches to protecting and promoting infant feeding in the First 1,000 Days, complementing existing work and addressing the wider environments in which families live, work and access services.

Social marketing

- Tobacco campaigns work is ongoing alongside, Healthy Weight Healthy You - 'Don't Let Setbacks Win' 4-week campaign burst to launch the new 'Don't Let Setbacks win'

Primary Care Division:

Prevention in Health and Care

Disease prevention

- **Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention:** Draft CVD Prevention Plan for Wales recommendations finalised. Planning completed for webinar to support all three GMS QI projects for 26/27. Initial results of Y1 hypertension QIP reviewed and shared with GMS Quality Committee - plan for mainstreaming continual QI approach following April 2027 discussed. Presentations to BHF Cymru and Primary Care Cardiovascular Society Wales.
- **All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme (AWDPP):** Ongoing work with health boards on plans for mainstreaming AWDPP. Version 3 update of AWDPP protocol drafted to include GDM and CVD pathways for AWDPP. Further advocacy for AWDPP extension to diabetes audit plus module. Annual AWDPP Community of Practice held.

Life-course programmes:

- **Health & Wellbeing (HWB) after Pregnancy:** E-learning module on contraception after pregnancy launched. Initial 'Making the case for HWB after pregnancy' slide set drafted. Meetings held with colleagues in Welsh Gov, primary care in Wales and NHS England leads to inform next steps.
- **Musculoskeletal (MSK) Prevention and improving physical activity:** Plan in place for new programme combining MSK prevention and improving physical activity. Scoping meetings held with OHID colleagues & Sport England, as well as WIPHAS colleagues to develop 'Moving Healthcare Professionals Programme' for Wales, develop 4 nations approach to undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum development, and continue work on MSK prevention toolkit.


Workforce and prevention:

- **Social Prescribing and Making Every Contact Count (MECC):** Findings of Financial Wellbeing and Social Prescribing Scoping review considered with PBHC framework and recommendations developed. All current MECC website content revised in preparation for transition from National MECC website to hosting content on Primary Care Division web pages. Meetings held with MECC leads across Wales to inform development of vision for MECC. Presentation to Italian conference on social prescribing and panel member at WG SP showcase.
- **Return to work support:** Review of best practice underway using PBHC framework, 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): Plans developed for publication of tools to support utilisation of PBHC framework. Dementia Strategy consultation response submitted. Meeting with Chief Pharmacist to explore developing vision for PBHC for community pharmacy.

Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme

- 1,331 actions already completed by 139 contractor teams for 2025/2026 to date.
- Video case study  [GREENER PRIMARY CARE EDIT 2.mp4](#) and external news item has been developed by PHW communications team showcasing the scheme and the work completed by a dental practice in Swansea Bay, this will be shared formally once finalised.
- March [E Bulletin](#) published, including a new case study.
- Continue to work with PHW corporate to migrate the [Greener Primary Care Wales webpages](#) to PHW webpages before closure of PC One.
- End of Year 4 (2025) report highlighting successes shared with the Expert Group.



End of Year Report
2025 (Year 4) FINAL.p

Inhalers

- Agreement with all stakeholders that the Inhaler Taks and Finish Group will be stood down. Work to become business as usual via National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions, All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) and Your Medicines Your Health.
- Request from AWTTC for a final report to be prepared and presented to the All-Wales Medicines Strategy group in September 2026.
- Inhaler KPIs to be monitored via the restructured Clinical Services subgroup (name TBC former Approaches to Healthcare Project Board- Chair Meng Khaw) of the Health and Social Care Climate Emergency National Programme Board.
- Evidence review of the UK of inhaler recycle pilot schemes completed, and report and feedback 4 nations group received. Will be shared with stakeholders to inform the clinical waste contract in Wales and made available on our webpages. Plans for peer review journal publication and commissioning specification.

Environmentally Sustainable medicines use

- Environmentally Sustainable Medicines Management in Wales Stakeholder workshop held on the 17 March 2026.
- Follow up survey circulated to inform report.
- Priorities identified, workshop report in progress and recommendations and next steps to be considered.
- Application for a HEIW Fellow to support this work was not successful so PCD scoping our input into this work with limited capacity available.
- Discussions with sub group of Value and Sustainably Board and Directors of Pharmacy group regarding Environmentally Sustainable Medicines Management in Wales and consequently a new national group looking at specifically at environmental impact and medicines is being scoped.

Climate change (general)

- SBAR shared with for SPPC/DPPC Peer groups and agenda item on 10 April 2022 to highlight the primary care actions in the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan 2025-2030](#) – follow up meeting with all Wales Heads of Primary Care Group booked.
- All Spread and Scale projects for 2024 / 2025 plus 2025/26 collated on behalf of WG and GrPC and Inhalers prepared as a case study for presentation to the Value and Sustainably Board in June 2026.

Primary Care Model for Wales

- A suite of Primary Care Model for Wales (PCMW) evaluation outputs (Cluster Peer review and a Triangulation report) were presented at the inaugural Community by Design Reference and Advisory Group. Following this we have been requested to develop actions for the CbD Governance and Leadership group incorporating the evidence from the Public Health approach to Primary Care by 2035 work and the PCMW evaluation findings.
- Ongoing work to advocate the use of the National Person Experience Survey across the four Independent Contractors. Including work to incorporate Person Experience as a metric within CbD.
- Engagement with senior leaders (SPPC clinical leads and All Wales Cluster Leads Group) on the current Primary Care Model for Wales (PCMW) Evaluation plan to inform a refresh of the evaluation plan and to consider what evaluation methodologies need refinement/ change.

Primary Care One website

- Primary Care One (PCONE) content migrated across to the new PHW website, with the launch of PCONE content in late April. Stakeholder communications have been drafted to inform partners of the change in website presence.
- PCONE End of Year report presented to the PCMW workstream.
- Work ongoing to gather stakeholder insight on the Primary and Community Care SharePoint, including presenting the draft pages with the PCMW workstream, the Cluster Development Support Officer Network and the All-Wales Cluster Leads Group, to ensure the pages meet User needs.

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.
- Undertaking the analysis of the year one Continuity of Care (CoC) GMS QI evaluation plus analysis of learning across the three QI projects (CoC, ABCD+ and Chronic Kidney Disease).

- Finalising work on the 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 has been shared with the PCMW workstream and will be presented to the Primary Care Leadership Group (01/05/2025) with a view to facilitate a workshop style session with this group in June.
- Scoping of a series of rapid evidence reviews to support 'Community by Design/ Care Closer to Home' work in progress.
- Evaluation of the second year of the Directed Supplementary Service for Complex Multi-morbidity and Frailty.
- Using the evidence from the 2035 work, developed a summary of the foundational blocks required for successful implementation of care closer to home. These have been incorporated into an SBAR for the Cbd Reference and Advisory group outlining system actions required to deliver Cbd.

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

- Presented '*The development and delivery of 'Teg I Bawb' – fair for all inclusion health training for the non-clinical patient-facing workforce in Wales*' at the 15th Annual International Homelessness and Inclusion Health Conference Pathways from Homelessness 2026.
- Showcased two workstreams with posters at the above event: '*Assessing and increasing inclusion health education in undergraduate and postgraduate healthcare training in Wales*' & '*Justice and Health in Partnership: Improving Continuity of Healthcare for People in Contact with the Justice System*'. The Justice & Health poster won the poster competition.
- Planning 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.
- Socialised the Education and training framework for Inclusion, Prison and Custody Suite Health Services in Wales through a series of engagement sessions with key stakeholders, including an event in partnership with Barod in Swansea on the 16th March, with the deputy Chief nursing officer.
- Two workshops delivered to BCUHB and CTHB to enable strengthening of population health approach to Women's Health strategies.
- Supported the development of the Health Inequalities eLearning for pharmacy, which has been launched by HEIW and is available for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Wales to complete on the YTyDysgu website.

Dental Public Health

- Provided dental public health update highlighting oral health inequalities and inverse care law to Primary Care Leadership Group.
- Started to work with HEIW to develop e-learning module on oral health inequalities for dental teams
- Engagement with and advice to the Welsh Government via Dental Public Health and Chief Dental Officer for Wales meeting. Engagement with Welsh Government and Health Boards and others re Dental Reform Programme. A new programme structure has been proposed. Provided ongoing programme management support and advice to existing workstreams.
- A SBAR on PES, PREMs and PROMs in dentistry has been drafted to be discussed in the Dental Strategic Oversight Group (DSOG) meeting in May.

Oral Health Intelligence

- Continue to undertake fieldwork for the Dental Epidemiology Programmes survey for 2025/26 examining oral health in care homes (1,035 dependent older people examined)
- Planning underway for the Training and Calibration event for the Year 7 (12-year-old) Dental Epidemiology Programmes survey for 2026/27
- Published report of patient access to NHS General Dental Services (national vs HBs; children vs adults; WIMD analysis)
- Preparing the analysis for a report on access to NHS General Dental Services for older people for the Older Person's Commissioner
- Explored the potential of a large data transfer linking NHS dental activity data with the SAIL database with Digital Health and Care Wales
- Captured child extractions under General Anaesthesia data and interrogating the new PRess system, implemented in the HBs in 2025

- Published three papers relating to care home research:
 - Tsakos G, Brocklehurst PR, Syed S, Harvey M, Daniyal S, Watson S, Goulden N, Verey A, Cairns P, Heilmann A, Hoare Z. Improving the Oral Health of Older People In Care Homes: the TOPIC randomised feasibility study. Public health research. 2026 Mar;14(5):1-28.
 - Hendry A, Baker SR, McKenna G, Tsakos G, Chestnutt I, Smith C, O'Neill C, Jenkins A, Evans R, Syed SS, Harvey M. Using role substitution to improve oral health in care homes: a process evaluation. Gerodontology. 2026 Mar;43(1):36-43.
 - McKenna G, Brocklehurst PR, Grocock R, Patel R, Janssens B, Tsakos G. Caries management in older adults. Dental Update. 2026 Apr 2;53(4):214-7.

Oral Health Improvement

- Preparation for Designed to Smile national study day, over 100 registered and 8 external presenters booked.
- Published the general dental practice prevention resource 'Supporting Oral Health for Babies and Young Children' to promote oral health education.
- Dental assessment (EDDN) research project planning and protocol writing for IRAS application.
- Collating the LHB data for the national annual report for Gwên am Byth programme.
- Providing dental public health support to SBUHB and HDDUHB, and to the Child Health Network Clinical Reference Group.
- Contributing to the PHRESH research group evaluating supervised toothbrushing in England.

Dental Quality and Safety

- Seeking feedback on the Quality Assurance Self-Assessment (QAS) from stakeholders to improve the self-assessment toolkit for 2026.

Wider Determinants of Health

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales

- The programme mid-point evaluation findings were shared with the Programme Advisory Board, demonstrating the value participants have had as well as the challenges faced by application in PSB settings. The board agreed to continue the three core work programmes that were adapted since baseline evaluation, with small changes to improve delivery and embed sustainability of programme over next 6 months. The programme continues, including delivering a workshop on Systems Evaluation to Learning Group members in this period.
- We contributed to PSB and RPB non-statutory guidance on well-being assessments, including systems thinking, as a part of the Welsh Government led national strengthening PSB group established from findings of the programme.

Building a Healthier Wales

- In March we published the report and supporting resources that were produced on behalf of the Building a Healthier Wales Coordination Group, as a needs assessment examining the extent of effective collaboration in partnerships addressing child poverty in Wales. The 'Better Join Up, Better Outcomes' report outlines the views of a wide range of stakeholders working across sectors collaborating on work aiming to reduce/end child poverty in line with the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. The published resources include a literature review of features of effective collaboration, examples of where these features have been identified by the participants in the needs assessments, and self-assessment tools that can be used by any audience to support more effective collaboration.

Public Health Network Cymru

- The network has been focussing on website migration, ensuring that members data is clean and up-to-date and that webpages reflect user needs. We have developed a programme of webinars with internal colleagues and external partners.

Successes

- Publication of: Applying a strategic approach to active school travel: Barriers, facilitators and potential solutions in Wales: [Applying a strategic approach to active school travel: Barriers, facilitators and potential solutions in Wales - the University of Bath's research portal](#)

- Publication of: Implementation evaluation of a whole systems approach (WSA) to childhood overweight and obesity in local communities: findings from the Children and Families Pilot in Wales, UK: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-026-27489-9>.
- Publication in BMJ Open: [Which 'health check' programmes for the assessment of cardiovascular risk factors and disease could be used to prevent illness and improve health in countries with universal healthcare? A systematic umbrella review.](#)
- Impact of Y1 GMS QIP on CVD prevention for people with high blood pressure: 30,687 additional patients treated to target, equating to 180 heart attacks and 270 strokes prevented, and NHS savings of over 6.5 million.
- Launch of [Contraception After Pregnancy](#) e-learning module on Y Ty Dysgu platform.
- Prevention in Health & Care CPH speaker at [annual NICE conference](#).

Public Health Network Cymru

- Members data clean up confirms that current membership numbers are at just over 3,000.

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales

- Positive feedback from the mid-point evaluation, with participants finding the programme valuable and useful.
- Four new case studies and new talking head video from Learning Group member have been published, showcasing value and impact of the programme
- Presented at the Systems Thinking in Practice Conference at the University of Hull

Building a Healthier Wales

- In addition to publishing the 'Better Join Up, Better Outcomes' needs assessment, the Building a Healthier Wales Coordination Group decided to stand down. The group reflected on the achievements since it began in 2018, through building effective relationships and collaborating to influence and add impact to a range of policy and programme areas. These strengths will continue to develop through a number of emerging shared priority work areas.

Any Concerns being managed:

Prevention in Health and Care

- **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 level of delivery in 2025/26 and onward plans for expansion and sustainable delivery of the programme remain uncertain.

Public Health Network Cymru

- Unclear of workforce support that will exist once website migration is complete

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Health Improvement Division

Tobacco

- TVNAP convened Health Board Workshop for stakeholders to clarify the Act's implications for Wales, maximise opportunities and surface implementation risks. Outputs will directly shape short- and medium-term delivery plans and support Welsh Government policy development.

Mental and Social Wellbeing

- Cynefin champions inaugural meeting at the Hay Festival on 28th May to follow attendance at Daisy Fancourts talk "Art Cure - The science of how the arts transforms our health". To be followed by the first full network event on the Best Start in Life theme in June.

Primary Care Division

Prevention in Health and Care

Disease prevention

- **CVD Prevention:** Finalise CVD Prevention Plan for Wales recommendations following discussion of draft recommendations with CVD Prevention Steering Group. Deliver webinar to support all three GMS QI projects in 26/27. Further develop plans for mainstreaming continual QI approach following April 2027, including development of CVDPREVENT and CVD ACTION tools for Wales. Develop proposal for cholesterol QIP.
- **AWDPP:** Consider stakeholder engagement on draft of Version 3 update of AWDPP protocol on GDM and CVD pathways for AWDPP. Work closely with DHCW to support progression of AWDPP extension to diabetes audit plus module. Work with WHO CC colleagues on economic evaluation of AWDPP. Review conclusions of GMS Short Life Working Group on AWDPP.

Life-course programmes:

- **HWB after Pregnancy:** Progress evaluation and engagement plans for contraception after pregnancy e-learning module. Develop plan for next steps with HWB after pregnancy programme.
- **MSK Prevention:** Meet with 4 nations colleagues to scope development of physical activity in UG and PG curricula. Progress MSK prevention toolkit. Develop plan for 'Moving Healthcare Professionals Programme' for Wales.

Workforce and prevention:

- **Social Prescribing and MECC:** Launch MECC generic Level 1 and 2 training modules on HEIW Y Ty Dysgu platform. Conclude meetings with regional MECC leads. Scope evaluation of 'healthy conversations' in primary care. Develop vision for MECC and SP.
- **Return to work support:** Develop plan for progressing return to work support.

Prevention-Based Health & Care: Finalise plans for publication of PBHC tools. Work with Community by Design and Welsh Gov colleagues to determine next steps for PBHC subgroup establishment. Meet with Chief Pharmaceutical Officer to develop plans for engagement with community pharmacy on PBHC.

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme - Finalise webpages (PHW). Discussions regarding Hapus / GrPC case study project underway.

Inhalers - Finalise webpages (PHW). SPPC / DPPC to consider SBAR (10 April meeting). Desktop exercise to collate the evidence base across the UK of inhaler recycle pilot schemes reported.

Other medicines - Workshop report prepared. Discussions underway with PHW Antimicrobial leads regarding developing a bespoke products to support Environmentally Sustainable antimicrobial prescribing. Working with AWTTTC to design their annual best practice day (June 2026) with Environmentally Sustainable Medicines Management as topic theme.

Primary Care Model for Wales

- Facilitate a PCMW evaluation review T&F group to lead the evaluation plan review which will report to the PCMW workstream.
- Facilitate stakeholder workshops to develop a Theory of Change for the PCMW and review the evaluation plan.
- Facilitate a Cluster Development Support Officers session on Information Governance for Clusters.

Primary Care One website

- Update the PCONE onboarding process to ensure the 'go-live' elements undertaken by the central communications team are incorporated.
- Disseminate stakeholder communications on the changes to the PCONE website.

Public Health approach to Primary and Community Care system by 2035

- Scope out the Healthcare Public Health approaches needed to support implementation of CbD.

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

- Continue to work with PHW corporate to migrate the webpages to PHW webpages before closure of PC One.
- Produce draft of collated evidence on implementing waiting list initiatives with an equity approach.
- Finalise Voices Seldom Heard – document on collaboration and co-production of health services.
- Support implementation of GMS Inclusion health provisions.

Wider Determinants Unit

Public Health Network Cymru

Upcoming webinars

- 13 May What Makes Collaboration Work? Insights and Tools for Effective Partnerships (WDoH Unit)
- 20 May Public Health Wales' International Health Forum
- 3 June Financial Well-Being in Wales – A driver for Better Health
- 18 June Building Strong Foundations in Early Childhood

- Scoping a series of webinars on Health Inequalities – Introduction to Health Inequalities (PHW), Environmental Health (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health), and abuse, loneliness and financial hardship in later life (PHW/other)

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales

- Supporting Economic Chances workshop in Gwent, using systems thinking to support stakeholders to identify collective priorities
- Planning support for PSBs to use systems thinking within their well-being planning cycle, including a workshop in July and further work with Hwb Dyfodol (futures thinking)
- Second workshop for the Strengthening PSB working group 'Learning Spaces'

Child poverty/Building a Healthier Wales

- May – presenting the Better Join Up, Better Outcomes work at a Public Health Network Cymru webinar, with support from the Future Generations Office and Words 2 Action project to support involvement of people with lived experience in policy decisions.

Worklessness

- Worklessness of Public Health Concern Theory of Change developing and socialised with leads
- Rapid scoping review on interventions supporting young people aged 16-25 with mental health or behavioural conditions into work progressing with searches and data extraction



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance
Executive Lead:	Claire Birchall, Executive Director
Reporting Month:	March and April 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	20 th May 2026
Board Meeting Date:	28 th May 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month(s):

Wales Council for Voluntary Action: PHW are proud to have developed and agreed a formal partnership agreement between Public Health Wales and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, endorsed by both Boards in March 2026. The agreement sets out a joint ambition to work together on shared priorities, bringing together voluntary and community sector insight and reach with public health expertise to strengthen prevention and reduce health inequalities across Wales. This represents an important milestone, with further work underway to translate this ambition into tangible actions, including a planned online launch event in mid-May.

Improvement and Innovation Hub year end celebration event: *The Power of Better: Inspire, Improve, Innovate.* The Improvement and Innovation Hub hosted a celebration event to recognise creativity and motivation to improve across Public Health Wales.

The main focus of the event was to:

- celebrate the growth in improvement and innovation capability across PHW
- inspire new improvements and innovative thinking, practices, ideas and to build upon the improvement culture
- highlight and celebrate on-going improvement and innovative endeavours across PHW.

55 people from across Public Health Wales attended the event. Feedback provided an overall satisfaction score of 4.3/5 and 89% of attendees felt the event met expectations.

Scheme of Delegation: work has commenced within NQIG to identify the Directorate's internal Scheme of Delegation and break down the decision-making powers within teams / Senior Management Team.

Successes:

National Safeguarding Awards: the inaugural NHS Wales Safeguarding Celebration Event took place in March 2026 at Cardiff Castle. The event recognised safeguarding excellence across teams and individuals, highlighting the meaningful and impactful work taking place every day throughout NHS Wales. Angela Wood, Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery at Betsi Cadwalladr University Health Board opened the event with a keynote address, recognising the courage, compassion and commitment needed to safeguard our most vulnerable people. Claire Birchall, Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Information Governance at Public Health Wales gave the closing

remarks, thanked all award winners for their inspiring and valued contribution to safeguarding. Celebrations concluded with afternoon tea at the Cardiff Castle venue. **Head of Nursing and Quality:** NQIG were delighted to welcome Sarah Owen into this new role at the beginning of April 2026. **Additional Safeguarding role:** an additional Safeguarding Role for a 12 month secondment was appointed to in March, to support the current corporate offer and Sexual Health IMT.

Any Concerns being managed

Sexual Health IMT: significant pull on the team resource and impact on Directorate work plans. The sustainability of supporting the Sexual Health Wales service daily with Safeguarding resources from both corporate safeguarding and the National Safeguarding Service (NSS) to provide advice and support but also the daily management of safeguarding concerns and cases.

Safeguarding Review Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT): the Director of NSS is leading on this Review, which is impacting significantly on NSS core business. One NSS Designated Nurse is also a member of the MDT.

Staff Flu vaccination programme: provision and operating model for 2026/27.

Forward Look of key activities for next month:

WCVA / PHW: A Spotlight On session is being held on 21st May to celebrate the launch of the Partnership Agreement which is open to both PHW and WCVA staff. Speakers include Lindsay Cordery-Bruce, WCVA Chief Executive, and Johanna Davies, WCVA Head of Health and Social Care. In addition, PHW will also have a presence at WCVA's annual conference, Gofod3, on 17th June. This includes Tracey Cooper, PHW Chief Executive attending, one of our Consultants from Healthy Working Wales speaking on a panel, a PHW stall and PHW staff running two workshops.

NHS Wales Safeguarding Network: following the successful Development Day in May, the Network will utilise the information, insights and analysis to refresh the Terms of Reference and purpose, ensuring workstreams are influential and impactful and align matters of national safeguarding with NHS Wales.

Young People's Engagement Programme: recruitment to this programme continues. 67 applications were received for the Young Consultants' role; interviews will be taking place mid May with a view to onboarding as soon as possible following appointment.

PHW Nursing and Midwifery Conference: will take place on Wednesday 13th May to mark both International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day, providing a timely opportunity to recognise and celebrate the vital contribution of our nursing and midwifery workforce. The theme of the conference, '*The Art and Science of Public Health Nursing and Midwifery*', will frame an inspiring programme featuring a range of expert speakers, dedicated opportunities for networking, and time to reflect on personal wellbeing.



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Operations and Finance
Executive Lead:	Zoe Pietrzak
Reporting Month:	March - April 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	20 th May 2026
Board Meeting Date:	

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Communications

- We delivered targeted communications to support the expansion of the RSV vaccination programme to people aged 80+. Insight showed that older age groups are less likely to rely on digital channels alone, so activity focused on broadcast media, supported by owned social channels aimed at carers and family members.
- In March, the team supported the Sexual Health Test and Post Service following the identification of a Hepatitis C issue. We coordinated internal and external communications, including a press release, staff messaging published ahead of media activity, and a Radio Wales interview.
- As part of the Future Web Estate Programme, the Communications and Digital teams led a coordinated update to Public Health Wales's web services. This included the public BETA launch of the redesigned PHW website alongside modernised services for Help Me Quit and WEDINOS.
- Insights from staff focus groups continued to shape internal communications improvements during this period. The redesigned intranet homepage, developed with IT and tested with staff, now offers clearer navigation, better access to leadership content and improved accessibility. Early feedback suggests it is easier to use and better reflects organisational priorities.

Finance

- Delivered draft year end breakeven position in line with our statutory duty
- Produced year end accounts and submit draft version to Audit Wales

- Produced and submitted draft Annual Performance Report as part of the Annual Report, highlighting key performance achievements of the whole organisation across 2025/26.
- Breakeven financial plan, Budget Strategy and Minimum Dataset all completed and submitted as part of organisation's strategic plan for 2026-2029.

Strategy and Planning

- Undertook rapid lessons learned process on Accountability Meeting to inform future approaches
- Continued programme mobilisation support for Future Workforce Solution and My Path Cymru (Obesity Pathway Innovation)
- Completed an internal assurance review on DESW Transformation Programme.
- Developed and launched 2026/27 IMTP and programme reporting arrangements.
- Launched a benefits realisation steering group in March, which will collaboratively develop a Benefits Management approach for Public Health Wales.
- Commenced a Discovery Phase with the Kings Fund on strengthening system accountability within the Tackling Diabetes Together programme.
- Held PPM Community of Practice learning session on *Agile and Developing Workplans*.

Estates and Health & Safety

- As part of the North Wales Estates programme, the fit-out programme of work completed at Seasons House, Ewloe. All staff formally moved into the new accommodation in April and are fully operational.
- Welsh Government Targeted Estates funded capital works (TEF) successfully completed across then estate.
- Re accreditation achieved of the ISO14001 environmental standard of all of the PHW administrative estate and additional accreditation achieved for the first time for all PHW screening sites.

Successes

Communications

- For the first time, people newly diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes across Wales receive consistent, high-quality information at a critical moment.
- The public BETA website launch marks a significant step towards a more modern, accessible and resilient digital public health estate.
- Effective handling of a sensitive sexual health service issue protected public and staff trust.

Finance

- Delivery of our statutory duty to breakeven for the financial year 2025/26 during a challenging period for NHS Wales where many organisations are in financial deficit.

Strategy and Planning

- Final version of Strategic Plan (IMTP) for 2026/27 approved by BET and Board and submitted to Welsh Government.
- Co-delivered session on NHS Wales planning cycle with Welsh Government Planning Team and Health Board colleagues, highlighting best practice to senior members across WG and NHS Wales.
- Working with collaboratively, supported move of the Web Transformation programme into public Beta phase (new web site publicly available).

Estates and Health & Safety

- The successful delivery of the North Wales relocation of circa 50 staff has been an example of a programme of very effective staff engagement which has contributed to very successful organisational change project being delivered on time and to a high standard with significant staff support and enthusiasm.

Any Concerns being managed:

Communications

- Sustained demand across the team continues to place pressure on communications capacity, with hantavirus response requiring significant resource. Work is being actively prioritised to focus on highest risk and highest impact activity while maintaining essential business-as-usual messaging.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Currently addressing some technical challenges re securing developer support for the recently launched desk and room booking system *Booking Buddy*.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Communications

- Key priorities for May include:
- PHW Comms leading Wales comms response to Hantavirus
- Full public launch of the redesigned PHW website on 21 May 2026.
- Child Measurement Programme Official Stats 12 May 2026
- Planning proactive post-election engagement activity
- Delivery of ongoing behaviour change campaigns, including vaccination, screening and seasonal health protection.
- Continued work to improve leadership visibility and engagement internally.

Finance

- Preparation for and supporting delivery of end of year directorate reviews as part of our performance management approach.

- Undertaking a quarter one baseline review as required by Welsh Government to explore opportunities to go beyond breakeven for 2026/27.
- Complete the Grip and Control assessment in line with Welsh Government requirements in order to identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement to enhance future controls and assurance.
- Review of Performance

Strategy and Planning

- Initiate the My Path Cymru (Obesity Pathway Innovation) programme through the Change Board
- Complete implementation of the Web Transformation and North Wales Estates Programmes and formally closed both through the Change Board.
- Support the organisation following the Senedd elections through the management of the Public Health Advocacy Programme and consideration of our Long-Term Strategy against the new programme of government.
- Support Influencing the Wider Determinants of Health strategic priority implements new governance arrangements.
- Complete a base line review of our strategic Plan (IMTP) in line with Public Health Wales Remit letter 26/27.

Estates and Health & Safety

- Planned completion of the new cleaning specification for PHW administrative estates and screening centres, for advancement to tendering exercise.
- Full Implementation of Computer Aided Facilities Management System (CAFM) to support the delivery of Estates compliance requirements and all reactive and proactive estates maintenance.
- Commencement of the planning and delivery of the estate's capital programme of works.
- Review of Welsh Government's Energy Services estates review to develop implementation plan aimed at supporting recommendations from the review.
- Commencement of the 2026 /27 Estates Performance Management System (EFPMS) for reporting deadline July 31st, 2026.



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Policy and International Health
Executive Lead:	Sumina Azam
Reporting Month:	2026-MAR TO 2026-JUN M12 (2025-26) - M03 (2026-27)
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	
Board Meeting Date:	

Overview of Key Activities During the Month (March & April)

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

A place to thrive: Creating healthier homes for children and families in poverty across Wales:

The report highlighted how unaffordable, poor-quality and insecure housing affected the health and wellbeing of children and families in poverty across Wales. Drawing on lived experience and stakeholder insights, it showed support for the Welsh Government Housing and Regeneration Strategy, strengthening housing standards (particularly in the private rental sector), improving data integration, engaging lived experience, and using Health Impact Assessments to help shape future policies that better support healthy homes.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/a-place-to-thrive-creating-healthier-homes-for-children-and-families-in-poverty-across-wales>

How home temperatures affect health and well-being in low-income households. Evidence from temperature monitoring and lived experience:

This briefing presents findings from indoor temperature monitoring and qualitative interviews with people living in low-income households. Participants reported negative impacts of feeling cold at home, including financial strain, feeling uncomfortable, and worsening of health conditions. Some of those living in a warmer home (18°C or above) spoke about the impacts of managing a warmer living area, including cutting back on eating and worrying about energy bills.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/how-home-temperatures-affect-health-and-well-being-in-low-income-households-evidence-from-temperature-monitoring-and-lived-experience/>

Supporting the implementation of the Welsh HIA Regulations

WHIASU, in collaboration with Welsh Government, held a webinar for public bodies in Wales to introduce the HIA Regulations and the newly published HIA guidance. The Regulations are being supported by a rolling programme of training including with partners.

WHIASU ran a session on the HIA process and the HIA Regulations for the Future Generations Commissioner's Office Impact Assessment group. Additionally, an academic journal paper was

published and included a framework for the institutionalisation of HIA and a maturity matrix of Wales's progress.

2 – Promoting mental and social well-being

"Falling from the Sky" - Voices of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in local authority care in Wales (UASC):

This research, commissioned by the ACE Hub Wales and the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (WSMP), captures the voices of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and former UASC care leavers living in Wales or in out-of-country placements in England (supported by Welsh local authorities).

The report and its findings, agreed as a deliverable in the ACE Hub Wales plan with the Welsh Government, will feed into the implementation of the Trauma Informed Wales Framework. The collection of studies considers how adversity and trauma is experienced by children and young people, during the migration journey and in Wales. The focus is on the many positive attributes children and young people demonstrate to overcome the impact of their experiences on mental and physical well-being; and the identification of person-centred support needed for improved health and social outcomes.

<https://acehubwales.com/resources/falling-from-the-sky-voices-of-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-in-local-authority-care-in-wales/>

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

Social value of immunisation project with PAHO

The WEAVE team has secured funding from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to deliver joint work on the social value of immunisation (2025-28), looking at the wider social and economic benefits of vaccines. This project brings in important learning and tools to increase vaccine coverage and address vaccine hesitance in Wales working in collaboration with the VPDP. The first Phase of the project delivered an evidence review and a Social Return on Investment framework for immunisation services.

Shaping behaviours for the Bevan Commission Clinical Influencers 2026 cohort

The Behavioural Science Unit delivered an interactive afternoon workshop to 30 clinical influencers from across NHS Wales, including Public Health Wales colleagues. The session built shared understanding of behaviour change, specified priority clinical behaviours, and applied theory, frameworks and practical levers to real challenges, strengthening participants' confidence, capability, and networks to lead and sustain improvement.

6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

Supported the delivery of Net Zero transition in the context of delivery of high quality public health services:

The Green Lab Champions group has grown significantly and has successfully implemented a number of actions, contributing to wider efforts to scale up sustainable practices across the laboratory network. These actions collectively support measurable reductions in emissions, waste and costs. To highlight progress and share learning across PHW, five case studies were published in April 2026.

Partnership working with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to support the WFG Act and Climate and Nature mission, including advocacy on sustainability and prevention:

The Health & Sustainability Hub is continuing to work with the FGC office to support their Climate & Nature mission priorities. We are actively involved in the MACC (Maximising Adaptation to Climate Change) Hub for Wales, with FGC Office and other partners (NRW, WLGA, WG) to support public bodies and PSBs with climate adaptation, for example through contributing to two MACC workshops.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre on 'Investment for Health and Well-being' Redesignation:

PIH 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 a diverse portfolio of work across 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 Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Jeremy Miles MS, recorded a video for the celebration webinar and said: "I am delighted to congratulate the Centre, which has been instrumental in positioning Wales as a global influencer, championing innovative policies, investments and solutions to make continuous improvement to population health and well-being."

Wales – WHO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Renewal 2026/27

We have had an instrumental role in renewing the MOU between the Welsh Government and WHO/Europe for 2026/27, strengthening Wales' global visibility, influence and commitment towards implementing well-being economies, increasing investment in prevention, and reducing health inequities.

International Health Insights (Horizon Scanning) Report - dementia prevention:

This report focuses the latest evidence and international best practice on dementia prevention. The request for this work came from the Minister for Mental Health and Well-being to inform the development of the new Dementia Strategy, with the report developed in close collaboration with colleagues across Public Health Wales and Welsh Government.

The report emphasises the need for a life-course approach to brain health supported by targeted behavioural interventions, multi-component programmes, and structural population-level measures. It underscores the importance of embedding equity and strengthening enablers such as innovation, workforce capacity, and community engagement.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/dementia-prevention/>

Optimising postnatal contraception conversations with behavioural science

Multi-professional groups who have contact with women throughout their reproductive life will soon have access to a newly developed behaviourally informed e-learning module on contraception after pregnancy. As part of a researched-funded programme the Behavioural Science Unit conducted a rapid evidence review into barriers and facilitators to women's uptake of contraception after pregnancy and barriers and facilitators to professionals discussing /

providing the contraception. Insights were tested with a delivery team and focused on effective and sensitive conversations; highlighting unique and actionable roles and responsibilities. The module is now undergoing testing and refinement ahead of launch.

Supporting Screening Services through behavioural science application

In response to a request for support from Breast Test Wales the Behavioural Science Unit have supported the development of more helpful content of communications sent to women who have received a negative breast cancer screening result – to increase breast awareness and advise on checking further for signs of cancer. The Unit have continued to actively contribute to the development of the Lung Cancer Screening programme, with recent milestones. We have been deploying behavioural science along the proposed pathway to ensure the maximum uptake by smokers attending screening appointments.

The International Health Activity Group (IHAG)

The International Health Activity Group quarterly meeting was held in April and is a collaborative learning and sharing network of international health professionals, academic and third sector partners, and Welsh Government representatives, and supports the delivery of the International Health Strategy.

Successes

Strengthening Population Health Strategies to Address Inequalities in Women's Health

This work demonstrates the value of an initial co-produced pilot between Public Health Wales and partners in Betsi Cadwaladr and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Boards, funded through the Women's Health Plan for Wales, to equip systems leaders with the skills to take a population health approach to women's health.

The training emphasised looking beyond individual conditions to understand the wider drivers of ill health, applying a gender equity lens, and focusing on the building blocks of health—such as income, education, employment, and access to services—that shape outcomes across the life course. A core component was strengthening the routine use of disaggregated data, including sex, ethnicity, and deprivation, to inform service planning and prioritisation.

Through workshop-based learning, participants developed the capability to identify unmet need, recognise variation in outcomes, and design more equitable, evidence-informed services. Evaluation findings show the pilot was both feasible and highly relevant, with all participants reporting improved knowledge of how data can be used to shape women's health priorities and increased confidence in applying intersectionality. Importantly, the programme has begun to influence strategic thinking and leadership commitment, supporting the embedding of a consistent gender and equity lens in decision-making.

As resources from the pilot are made available online for wider use across other health boards, there is strong potential to scale this approach, supporting more systematic, data-driven planning, addressing health inequalities, and ensuring women's health services are responsive to the diverse needs of all communities.

Abuse and other adversities in community-dwelling older adults in Wales: associations with health and well-being (Adverse Later Life Experience ALLE):

This report highlighted the relationships between abuse, loneliness and financial hardship in later life and poorer health in Wales. It presented findings from a national household survey of adults aged 60 years and over that measured exposure to a range of adversities in later life and health and wellbeing. The study found that one in eight participants had suffered abuse since the age of 60, one in five had experienced loneliness or social isolation and one in five had struggled financially. These three experiences were strongly and independently associated with poorer health outcomes.

The study was a collaboration between Public Health Wales, Bangor University and Liverpool John Moores University, and was developed with support from Age Cymru, the Older People's Commissioner and Welsh Government.

The study received extensive TV, radio, digital and print media coverage, including leading the main evening news bulletin on BBC Wales Today and featuring as a phone in topic on BBC Radio Wales. An accompanying article published in *The Conversation* to highlight the study to an international academic audience achieved over 20,000 reads in its first few days.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/abuse-and-other-adversities-in-community-dwelling-older-adults-in-wales-associations-with-health-and-well-being/>

Any Concerns being managed:

We are working with the Communications Team to resolve Web Migration issues, for example the Welsh Health Equity Solutions Platform, E-Learning platform and Qualtrics.

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

- The WHIASU team will present a lunch and learn session to PHW staff and also to NHS Planning Leads.
- The “Impact of the energy crisis on energy affordability, thermal comfort, and behaviours among low-income households in Wales: A qualitative study” journal paper will present findings from qualitative interviews carried out with residents in low-income households on their experiences of home temperatures, health and wellbeing during winter in Wales.
- An evidence briefing will translate findings from the WHO Commission on Social Connection to support cities and communities to take action on social connection, developed for the Age-friendly Cities and Communities global network with input from Welsh age-friendly stakeholders
- Production of nine international child poverty country profiles, identifying best practice and policy levers, comparing preventative and inequality-focused approaches, and translating learning into an executive summary and implications for Wales

6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

- The next Green Advocates session (12 May) will be a speaker event exploring how to eat a healthy, balanced and planet-friendly diet, with contributions from the Office of the Future Generations for Wales and PHW nutrition specialists.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

- The International Health Newsletter will be published in May
- The PHW International Public Health Forum (bi-annual) will be held in May
- Behavioural Science in Action: a review of activity and impact in 2025-26 will be published in May
- Behavioural Change Agents development programme for 2026/7 will launch in June
- The Time to Talk Public Health report will focus on warm homes and health; violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence; second-hand smoking; and child poverty



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	People & OD
Executive Lead:	Neil Lewis
Reporting Month:	March/April
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	20 May 2026
Board Meeting Date:	28 May 2026

Overview of Key Activities During March and April 2026

- We held the first of our new format New Colleague Networking Events.
- A Leadership Community of Practice event took place, with a well-known external speaker sharing their leadership journey.
- The Leadership and Management Academy continued with Deep Dive 7 and the launch of cohorts 8 and 9.
- Planning commenced on a number of policy reviews including our 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.
- Job Matcher Refresher Training took place as part of Job evaluation improvement actions.
- Ongoing support provided to directorates to expand bank workforce capacity and reduce agency dependency.
- Our new organisational policy on the Internal Use of Welsh across the organisation was approved and published, in [Cymraeg](#) and [English](#). The policy outlines our vision for the increased use of Welsh amongst our staff by ensuring opportunities are available for all to learn, develop and use their Welsh every day at work. The policy also includes targets for us under the themes of Leadership; Supporting our Welsh learners; Translation; Celebrate Cymraeg and the Internal promotion of Cymraeg.
- The first full financial year of the Welsh language Translation Portal saw a total of **4,061,401** words of written work translated during 2025/26.
- Our Welsh Language Group members submitted their annual Welsh Language Standards reporting templates for 2025/26 on behalf of their directorates.
- Key campaigns and awareness days were marked during March and April, including Men's Mental Health with David Beeney, International Women's

Day event, Understanding and Tackling Racial Microaggressions Workshop, Trans Day of Visibility session and a Moon Café and Menopause Café were also held to support staff.

- Future Workforce Solution (ESR Replacement) –
 - A Programme Brief was presented at Change Board, which proposed the mobilisation of a cross-organisational Working Group, which will undertake Foundational Readiness activity now, ahead of full programme initiation once Public Health Wales’ national implementation wave and timeline are confirmed.
 - A second organisation-wide stakeholder update session was held in April, reinforcing that the Future Workforce Solution represents a major workforce transformation rather than a like-for-like system upgrade. Key readiness themes highlighted included data quality, process standardisation and organisational capacity.
- Implementation of the DBS Update Service has progressed, with 536 colleagues now subscribed and compliant with the policy.
- Cultural Advocate workshops are underway, and a Cultural Advocate Network has been established, with Sumina Azam identified as Executive Sponsor.
- SET session on 08 April and Leadership Forum on 14 April set the tone for cultural change and proposed a simplified set of priorities integrating high level culture and staff survey engagement actions.
- Two revised All-Wales People and OD policies were approved for adoption across NHS Wales from 1 April 2026 for Agenda for Change colleagues - the updated Disciplinary Policy and Process and the Improving Performance at Work Policy (formerly the Capability Policy). Together, these policies reinforce our commitment to treating people fairly, acting with integrity and supporting one another through challenge as well as success. They align with our wider cultural ambition to create psychologically safe environments where issues are addressed early, learning is encouraged, and individuals feel valued and supported.

Successes

- We launched our updated [Workplace Adjustment Passport](#) which provides support for staff and managers. The Workplace Adjustment Passport is a confidential document that records agreed workplace adjustments to support individual needs. It can cover a wide range of circumstances and is designed to travel with an individual across roles and teams, reducing the need to repeatedly share personal information when managers or circumstances change, and helping to ensure continuity of support.
- The Neurodiversity Sub-group celebrated their second anniversary and a [news article was published](#) acknowledging all the support their have given to colleagues over the past two years. Over this period, the network has grown to 120 members, who have strengthened awareness and understanding of neurodivergence through education, resources, external speakers, and collaboration with other staff networks. The network continues to provide a safe and valued space for colleagues to share lived experiences, build confidence, and promote a more neuroinclusive workplace, with plans to expand activity and reach in the coming year.

Any Concerns being managed:

- 540 colleagues have now subscribed to the live DBS Update subscription service, enabling real-time reporting of DBS status. A small number of staff are yet to subscribe and these have been escalated to Executive-level colleagues for targeted follow-up. Daily and weekly reminders continue to be issued via Trac to drive compliance.

Forward Look of key activities for May 2026

- A new partnership will be established with Working Options Wales to support early careers engagement across Wales. This supports delivery of actions within the Strategic Equality Plan and People Strategy by widening access to careers information and opportunities. We will be seeking volunteers to support activities such as careers talks, employability workshops and mock interviews, helping to inspire young people aged 14-19 and promote Public Health Wales as an employer of choice.
- The Welsh Language Team are currently drafting the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report and More Than Just Words Annual update on behalf of Public Health Wales and NHS Performance and Improvement for submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner and Welsh Government and publishing on our website in September. Both reports will go to BET in June and PODCOM in July for approval.
- Building on the work underway across the organisation and the recent series of workshops with the Culture Advocates Network, we will identify a suitable opportunity for a joint meeting between Cultural Advocates and Executives.
- The 2026/27 schedules for Developing People Managers and Personal Development Programmes begin.
- Learning at Work Week takes place week commencing 18 May with the theme 'Many ways to learn'.
- Leadership and Management Academy Session 1 take place for Cohorts 8 and 9.
- Will we be running a series of [awareness-raising sessions](#) for colleagues on several revised [All-Wales policies](#), including the updated Disciplinary Policy and Process, the Improving Performance at Work Policy (for Agenda for Change colleagues) and the Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy (for all colleagues).

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Public Health Research, Data and Digital
Executive Lead:	Iain Bell
Reporting Month:	April
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	06 May 2026
Board Meeting Date:	28 May 2026
Overview of Key Activities During the Month	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Health Protection (DHP). Confirmation of FY2026/2027 capital funding from Digital Priorities Investment Fund (DPIF) received from Welsh Government. • Successfully deployed and validated the end-to-end DHP system within an Azure environment, ensuring seamless integration across frontend, backend and database layers. • Supporting Welsh Government with the development of robust evaluation of the Marmot Nation in Wales. • Contributed to the Global Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres, virtually, highlighting the WHO Collaborating Centre on Digital Health Equity in Public Health Wales. • Funding panel member for the Health and Care Research Wales Emerging Researchers Award. • Detected X, a radiology learning platform, was approved for use by Breast Cancer Screening by the AI Design Authority. 	
Successes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scoping review was published on Population screening for diabetic retinopathy without mydriasis to support Diabetic Eye Screening Wales improvements. • Successful deployment of DHP to the cloud development environment. Successful deployment and connectivity of the Tarian Adaptor. This is a vital piece of development that will link and move data from Tarian to DHP during the initial period of implementation/go-live. • Completion of Phase 1 of the Genomics data migration where several TB of data have been successfully copied from Cardiff University on premise servers to PHW's Azure environment. 	

- Successful completion of process evaluation for Warm Wales. A fuel poverty initiative for Wales. The report has been shared with the Health Foundation and with Warm Wales.

Any Concerns being managed

- CARIS/Vision radiology data flow risk (Datix 2173) – mitigations in progress. The risk has been reduced since last reporting period.
- Lung Cancer Screening Programme has numerous dependencies on DHCW for delivery of the Pathway Administration System which are being escalated

Forward Look of key activities for next month

- Child Measurement Programme official statistics released 12 May 2026. (Pre-release is on 05 May 2026).
- Joint planning session for Phase 2 of DHP.
- Evaluation Community of Practice training event on the theory based outcome evaluation process-Contribution analysis to be delivered by CECAN on the 06 May 2026.
- Health Equity/Marmot Nation theory of change workshop scheduled for 28 May 2026.