

Jan and Kate monthly message – June 2020

We are missing the opportunity to get out and meet with you all- we hope that you are staying safe and well. When we can next come and see you, we'll be sure to tell you in person how proud Board members are of the way in which you continue, day in, day out, to protect the nation's health and well-being. At the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee last week, it was a pleasure to place on record the Board's pride in, and appreciation of, the contributions that everyone is making <https://record.senedd.wales/Committee/6355>.

Last week, Public Health Wales made a public statement on our support for, and our stand with, the Black Lives Matter movement. We all have a part to play in standing up against racism and discrimination in all its forms; we thank everyone who supported and advised on the most effective way to state our position. The Board welcomes your views on what more we need to do to tackle inequalities internally and to build skills and understanding. We also appreciate the work of the BAME staff network and look forward to hearing more from network members.

The Board is always focussed on staff health and well-being and never more so than now, when a number of you are working in different roles and with all the Covid-related pressures. Thanks to all of you who were able to respond to the staff survey. The People and OD team is now working on the actions needed as a result of what you said.

The Board meets next week, with some weighty items on the agenda. We will be ratifying the Stage 2 Implementation Plan, setting out our role and responsibilities under the Test, Trace and Protect Strategy. This is such an impressive, authoritative Plan and we send our warmest congratulations to everyone involved in its compilation.

We'll also be hearing about the plans for organisational recovery, including those around resuming screening programmes. We know just how much care and attention the Screening Division is giving to bringing screening back in a safe and sustainable way, and we are grateful to you all.

We are always pleased to note the work that we have been able to continue outside Covid-mobilisation, including that of the antenatal, newborn bloodspot and hearing screening programmes. Our screeners have been remarkable throughout, as has the team in the Ace Support Hub. The launch this week of the Refugees Report is yet another example of the important contribution the Hub is making.

The WHO Collaborating Centre team continues to produce ground-breaking work that is helping to shape policy and highlighting the impact

of Covid -19 across the public realm. In addition to the weekly National Public Engagement Survey and International Health Scanning reports, the Board will have the opportunity to see the first of the HIA reports, on.

And, of course, the Board gets an update on the work of the health protection and microbiology laboratory teams; as we always do, we'll acknowledge just how pivotal your roles are in the management of the this global public health emergency that is unparalleled in a 100 years. We'll be looking in depth at the surveillance programme and at our world class Covid genomics sequencing service.

So, the Board will have a substantive agenda, and, as we'll be live-streaming once more, we hope that you'll join us virtually, or dip into the recording at a later date.

In the meantime, stay safe and well.

All best wishes,

Jan and Kate