



# DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Policy and International Health, WHO CC
Executive Lead:	Sumina Azam
Reporting Month:	April 2024
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	15 May 2024
Board Meeting Date:	30 May 2024

## Overview of Key Activities During the Month

### Time to Talk Population Panel – February 2024 Survey

The latest report provides a brief overview of the findings from the February 2024 survey, which included a boost sample of parents of children under 18 years of age. The survey covered six topics including: information for parents, mental well-being, role of educational settings, breastfeeding, child behavioural strategies and technology use with friends and family.

### Climate Change and Health in Wales: Views from the public – A demographic breakdown of data

This report presents demographic breakdowns from key questions included in the national population survey on climate change perspectives undertaken in 2022. Findings could be used to deliver awareness campaigns and inform the targeting of key messages and action on climate change in Wales.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/climate-change-and-health-in-wales-views-from-the-public-a-demographic-breakdown-of-data/>

### Determining the Public Health Impact of Climate Change: A National Study Using a Health Impact Assessment Approach in Wales

This academic paper presents the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of climate change in Wales as a case study. This paper has provided an opportunity and additional outlet for sharing best practice internationally.

<https://www.ssph-journal.org/journals/international-journal-of-public-health/articles/10.3389/ijph.2024.1606972/full>

### Theory of Change Workshop

The WHESRI Theory of Change Workshop engaged the programmes' stakeholders in a participatory discussion about the Welsh Health Equity Solutions Platform (WHESP), to start to build a Theory of Change for the platform. The participatory approach to this Theory of Change workshop informs the evaluation of WHESP by providing a clear framework to understand and measure how its various components and activities lead to the intended

outcomes, by supporting evidence-based decision-making and policy development.

### **PHW campaign on Active School Travel running April/May 2024, including Behavioural science input.**

The BSU provided behavioural science consultation, supporting Health Improvement in the procurement and development of the campaign to increase active travel to school.

### **Health Inequalities Narrative Update**

The PHW health inequalities narrative is being socialised and finalised. There was a presentation to share the concepts and update on the activity at the Senior Leadership Forum. This was followed by a 'Spotlight' session to share with the wider organisation the developments of this workstream and to develop the organisational conversation on how we embed health inequalities into all our activities and workstreams.

### **Assessing Health Impacts of the Core Strategy, Cork City Development Plan, Conference Facilitated by Liz Green.**

The WHIASU supported the University of Cork and Cork City Council to carry out a HIA on their local development plan. It is part of an action research project which involves testing the Institute of Public Health, Ireland guidance and engaging local communities.

Liz Green presented at the International Association of Impact Assessment and also the International Association of National Public Health Institutes on the Climate Change HIA published by PHW on April 18th and 27th.

### **Reimagining an economy for resilient and healthier societies that leave no one behind**

We supported the WHO Venice Office high level event and provided support to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to participate as a WHO Champion for the European Wellbeing Economy initiative and to promote Wales as a 'live innovation site' for sustainable investment and prosperity for all, leaving no one behind. [Eluned Morgan appointed WHO Champion for the European Well-being Economy Initiative; Reimagining an economy for resilient and healthier societies that leave no one behind - Venice, Italy, 9 April 2024](#)

Mariana Dyakova was appointed as one of 24 members of the WHO global [Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases \(STAG-NCD\) \(who.int\)](#). She was also appointed to and participated in the first meeting of a UNICEF Advisory Group on social return on investment of nutrition programmes for children.

We have successfully recruited two senior posts, building the Public Health Economics and Value Unit, as well as hosting two Maastricht students to support the work on Social Value and Wellbeing Economy developing their Masters and Bachelor thesis.

## Successes

### Addressing single-use plastic and waste in Public Health Wales' Microbiology labs

The 'Addressing single-use plastic and waste in Public Health Wales' Microbiology labs' report, developed in partnership with external consultants, highlights opportunities to reduce single-use plastic usage and associated emissions within our laboratories, to support delivery of actions identified in PHW's Decarbonisation Action Plan. The findings of the report can be disseminated across all laboratories in Wales and the wider healthcare sector. The report was published on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and was presented to the "Welsh Government Approaches to Healthcare group" on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2024.

### ACEs and healthcare engagement

This report explores relationships between ACEs and healthcare engagement in an online sample of adult residents of Wales and England. The study finds individuals with multiple ACEs are more likely to take prescription medicines, report poor medication adherence, feel uncomfortable using healthcare settings and perceive that health professionals do not care about their health or understand their problems.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/adverse-childhood-experiences-and-engagement-with-healthcare-services-findings-from-a-survey-of-adults-in-wales-and-england/>

### Any Concerns being managed:

The capacity of the WHIASU team and organisation with regard to the introduction of the HIA regulations. There is already an increase in requests for information and support internally and externally.

Increasing number of requests from across the organisation and Health Boards and Trusts for health economics and social value support before the full team is recruited and programme development started.

### Forward Look of key activities for next month

#### Health Equity Frameworks and Tools summary paper:

Publication on the WHESRI platform of an overview of international examples of health equity frameworks and tools. The frameworks and tools listed in this document are examples of UK and international efforts to support governments, organisations and individuals to work towards health equity. Existing health equity frameworks were identified through searches of key international and national public health and health equity institution resources.

#### International Horizon Scanning Summary Calendar April 2023 – March 2024:

An interactive summary of the 2023/24 reports, highlighting key messages and country features. Topics featured include: Universal Primary Free School Meals Mental Health and Well-Being of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Five Essential Conditions for Health Equity Embedding Prevention in Primary and Community Care Impact of Poverty on Babies, Children and Young People.

#### Wellbeing economy animation video developed:

Wellbeing Economy animation has been developed to showcase Wales as an influencer and innovation site for the WHO Wellbeing Economy work.

**Climate Change Strategic Priority route map developed:**

In partnership with colleagues across the organisation, we are leading the development of the climate change strategic priority route map. Route map due to be finalised end of May.