



# DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

<b>Directorate:</b>	Health Protection and Screening Services Directorate
<b>Executive Lead:</b>	Meng Khaw
<b>Reporting Month:</b>	April 2024
<b>Business Executive Team Meeting Date:</b>	15 May 2024
<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	30 May 2024

## Overview of Key Activities During the Month – Health Protection Division (HP)

- On-going response to pertussis and measles notifications including establishment of separate case management cell to assist with Health Protection Teamwork flows.
- Management of measles and cryptosporidium outbreaks.
- Receipt of Tarian discovery final products.
- Enabling actions for Spring COVID-19 booster were completed.
- Elimination indicators report for hepatitis and HIV -good stakeholder feedback.

## Infection Services Division

- Molecular Enteric Contract paper presented to Business Executive Board (BET).
- Rapid Molecular Contract paper presented at Business Executive Board (BET).
- 4 Established Control Process (ECP) proposals including multiple posts approved.
- Engagement with Blue Lozenge regarding HPSS review of internal communications.

## Screening Division

- Plan for Radiology Information System procurement PACs progressing in line with timelines.
- Implementation of breast cohort IT system now likely to be in May and go live now supported internally.
- Continuing meetings with England around sharing screening histories in cervical screening implementation of their system.

## Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Monitoring situation with industrial action via Emergency Planning & Business Continuity (EPBC) Group noting a pause for negotiations.
- Working on PHW/University College London Collaboration Project (inequalities in EPRR) – developing parameters for literature review.
- Supported the delivery of Wales Gold IV Course in North Wales – 2no. Senior Health Protection Colleagues participating.

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- Site visit/resilience assessment of Preswylfa Offices, collaborating with Estates from an EPBC perspective.
- Work ongoing on staff-wide facilitated learning events for Covid. Survey developed/agreed by the multi-directorate planning group.

### **Office of the Medical Director (OMD)**

- Legal and Risk training attended by Business Manager for Upholding Professional Standards Wales (UPSW).
- Work commenced on OMD SharePoint page.
- Consultant Engagement Group meeting in April.
- First Caldicott Network Group meeting to be held in April.
- Collaborative work continuing with QNAHPs on Fitness to Practice policy and the registration audit report.
- Revalidation of UK Public Health Practitioners (UKPHR) specialist registrants' policy drafted and ready to proceed to consultation.

## **Successes**

### **Health Protection Division (HP)**

- Recruitment of 2x Consultant in communicable disease control (CCDC)s for Health Protection Team and 1x Environment Public Health Consultant.
- Workforce sub-group of Senior Management Team re-established.
- Commencement of recruitment to the 14 new posts from C19 sustainable funding.
- Automated anti-microbial resistance (AMR) data pipeline developed.
- Sentinel surveillance worked well and contributed to 4 nations flu vaccine effectiveness study.
- Successfully delivered the National Immunisation Conference in CQ2 on 24 April 2024. Speakers included Cabinet Secretary Eluned Morgan, Chief Medical Officer Sir Frank Atherton. The event was attended by colleagues from across the health and social care system and other public and private sectors.

### **Infection Services Division**

- Innovation Day in collaboration with BioMerieux.
- 1x Biomedical Scientist Specialist Diploma in Medical Microbiology.
- 1x Trainee Biomedical Science Certificate of Competence.
- 1x Biomedical Support Worker Poster Presentation: Game Changers Innovation Day.
- Staff member featured in British Science week article celebrating careers in Science.

### **Screening Division**

- Celebrating 10 years of Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme.
- New Consultant in Public Health Medicine starting in June.
- Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) contract complete.
- Recovery progressing – breast screening backlog greatly reduced, very close to recovered.
- Start of Lung Cancer Screening Project meetings.

### **Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)**

- Resilient EPRR 24/7 on-call service went live in April.

- Facilitated a debrief for preparation and response relating to industrial action by Junior Doctors in March via Emergency Planning & Business Continuity (EPBC) Group.
- Successful PHW participation in Exercise REDSTREAK; for water supply disruption in Dyfed Powys – cross border exercise with West Mercia.
- Successful engagement with PHW unions and colleague networks re; work of the multi-directorate planning group for staff-wide facilitated learning events for Covid.
- Successful participation in Exercises' VENT & WAVE1; communications tests associated with Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) and Control of Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (COMAH) plans in North Wales.

### **Office of the Medical Director (OMD)**

- Reasonable level of assurance provided by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) Audit Team in respect of appraisal and revalidation processes.
- Three colleagues have successfully submitted their submissions for the NCIA awards.
- Public Health Wales's version of the All-Wales Medical Appraisal Policy approved.
- OMD attended as a new member to the All-Wales Medical Devices Group.

### **Any Concerns being Managed**

#### **Health Protection Division**

- Latest Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) data shows very significant fall in uptake in school aged immunisation by the age of 16. Investigation into the cause underway.
- Delays in STI testing contract with Health Services Laboratories (HSL) due to data arrangement clauses within framework.

#### **Infection Services Division**

- Containment Level 3 (CL3) facilities (including autoclaves) remain vulnerable and a challenge.
- Change Deterrent on Welsh Laboratory Information Management System may constrain service developments.
- A reduced number of qualified specialist staff to deliver training to our trainees.

#### **Screening Division**

- My Contribution compliance – action plan in place.
- Staffing in North region Breast Screening.
- Colonoscopy waiting times- continual focus.
- Pathology waiting times.
- Newborn IT system is end of life and both clinical and cyber risks – potential way forward taking longer than expected to be clarified.

#### **Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)**

- Noting a pause (by Welsh Government) with system-wide engagement in Wales Resilience Framework development due to the appointment of the new First Minister for Wales and the impending publication of the Covid Inquiry Module 1 report.

**NB.** PHW EPRR standby ready to engage as soon as the process restarts.

### **Office of the Medical Director (OMD)**

- Work continuing with People and Organisational Development (POD) in relation to the cessation of out of hours (OOHs) rota payments.
- Five specialty registrars due to CCT – may need to manage any grace periods.
- Statutory and Mandatory training being closely monitored for all StRs due to low completion rates.

### **Forward Look of key activities for next month**

#### **Health Protection Division**

- In line with our IMTP commitment to 'complete a comprehensive review of Health Protection team service in the context of developing Health Protection service models in the local Health board regions to ensure safety, efficiency and formal collaborative working', a project oversight group is in the process of developing tender specifications to enable a comprehensive external service review to deliver recommendations that will form part of the overall service review.
- Recruiting new consultant epidemiologist.
- Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) recruitment in May.

#### **Infection Services Division**

- Deep Dive into Divisional Risk Registers taking place.
- Focus on financial planning and a small costing project convened.
- Value in Laboratory Processing project.
- Review of internal meeting structure in line with changes to the directorate governance structural changes.
- Anticipated progress to implementation of the Molecular Enteric Contract.
- Anticipated progress to implementation of the Rapid Molecular Contract.

#### **Screening Division**

- Replacement diabetic cameras project.
- High risk MRI provision – continuing to progress.
- Progressing breast cohort IT system.
- Cell-free DNA implementation in Antenatal Screening Wales (ASW).
- Improving culture across PHW.

#### **Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)**

- Monitoring situation with for industrial action via EPBC Group noting a pause in action whilst negotiations take place.
- Supporting the delivery of Wales Gold IV Course in Gwent & South Wales – 6no. Colleagues from PHW.
- Exploring potential to support the development and delivery of an exercise to explore response to a widescale issue arising from substance misuse.
- Exploring potential to support and develop an exercise in conjunction with Infection Services for their response to a communicable disease outbreak.

### **Office of the Medical Director (OMD)**

- New Clinical Governance Manager joins the Team in May.
- Final two sessions of e-job planning training being delivered.

- Work to commence on the annual Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) Progress Revalidation Report.
- OMD attendance at the Physician Associate Stakeholder Event in May.