



DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Policy and International Health, WHO CC
Executive Lead:	Sumina Azam
Reporting Month:	February 2024 (M11)
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	20 March 2024
Board Meeting Date:	28 March 2024

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

[TrACE Conferences, Aberystwyth and Newport, February 2024](#)

ACE Hub Wales hosted the TrACE Conference in Aberystwyth and Newport, Gwent showcasing the TrACE toolkit, exploring how it can be used to transform the way organisations work and highlight the impacts it is having in organisations from across Wales. We launched key products, which have been co-produced with partners and ACE Hub Wales.

[International Horizon Scanning Report on Child Poverty](#)

This report provides an overview of international policies and approaches to prevent and reduce child poverty and its public health impact. It includes fiscal policies, such as cash transfers; and builds on the PHW report and Welsh Government activities to explore further areas of focus and identify gaps.

[Time to Talk Population Panel - Dec-2023 Survey and celebrating one year of the panel](#)

The latest Time to Talk Public Health (TTPH) survey captured the public's perceptions, attitudes and behaviours regarding flu and Covid-19 vaccines, vaccination in pregnancy, the NHS 111 Wales service, and primary care clusters. The press release focused on vaccines and pregnancy.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/time-to-talk-public-health-december-2023-panel-survey-findings>

An internal news story and video was also produced by the PHW digital team to celebrate one year of TTPH and included case studies on how the panel has influenced and informed policy and practice.

<https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/sites/PHW/SitePages/Your-Wales.-Your-Health.-Your-Voice.-Celebrating-one-year-of-Time-to-Talk-Public-Health.aspx>

[Spatial planning, public health and health service policies: opportunities for improving health and addressing inequalities](#)

This event focussed on changes in the planning policy agenda, public health and healthcare services' involvement in influencing the use of Section 106 monies, policies facilitating healthy food environments and an update of the Welsh Government HIA Regulations. Relevant projects and case studies were presented and two interactive workshops held.

125 people from across the UK and Europe attended. Partners who contributed included Welsh Government, public bodies and the third sector. <https://publichealthnetwork.cymru/event/spatial-planning-public-health-and-health-service-policies-opportunities-for-improving-health-and-addressing-inequalities/>

[Policy Advocacy for Public Health Training](#)

The Polisi team delivered two online trainings on 'policy advocacy' and 'communicating with policymakers'. In these interactive sessions, policy advocacy concepts, the benefits for our work and for the Welsh population, and best practices were shared. The purpose of these trainings was to give colleagues the confidence and skills to advocate for policy change, as an essential component of delivering on the ambitions of the long-term strategy, maximising the impact of our work, and improving the health and well-being of everyone in Wales.

[FrameWorks UK project: systems workshop](#)

Working with FrameWorks UK, we delivered a workshop to help public health system partners understand how we currently communicate about the wider determinants of health, where that could be strengthened to inspire action, and the next steps to support that. A summary of discussions and key learnings from FrameWorks UK's analysis of current communications and their recommendations will be shared with participants.

[HIA/SROI primary study of a self-testing sexual health service in HMP Prescoed project completed:](#)

This report outlines the Social Return on Investment (SROI) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of a public health programme to capture the holistic value of a Public Health Wales led sexual health testing programme within a prison in Wales. This will increase awareness, improve the evidence base and skill-building around SROI and social value. It is also uses an innovative and unique approach of combining SROI and HIA frameworks to capture the health impact and wider value.

[Self-administered sexual health testing in an open prison setting in Wales: A Health Impact Assessment and Social Return on Investment analysis](#)

Successes

Minister for Health and Social Services Written Statement, 1st February: Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Health Organization Europe

This is a milestone achievement recognising the PIH, WHOCC collaborative work with the WHO, enabling and supporting the MOU and its renewal, and delivering key work such as Health Equity (WHESRI) and the Wellbeing Economy initiative.

The MOU covers areas of health equity and rights; investment for health and wellbeing; sustainable development; and prosperity for all. Our partnership has already enabled us to develop a deeper understanding of what drives health inequalities through the [Welsh Health Equity Status Report Initiative \(WHESRI\)](#). Wales was one of the first in Europe to adopt this ground breaking WHO initiative. The renewal of the MOU will help strengthen connections internationally and provide a strong lever to support us in achieving the goals of a healthier, more equal, prosperous and globally responsible Wales.

<https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-renewal-memorandum-understanding-world-health-organization-europe>

Study visit to the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit from the Portuguese public health institute

A senior Public Health Specialist from the Portuguese National Public Health Institute visited the WHIASU to learn from the team, attend the spatial planning and health annual event amongst other activities, with an aim to develop a strategy for the activation and implementation of HIA in Portugal and Portuguese speaking nations.

Any Concerns being managed:

The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) capacity has been significantly impacted by increased demands arising from the preparation for the introduction of the Welsh Government HIA regulations and preparing the organisational response including involving a wide range of cross directorate colleagues. There has been a major increase in requests to the Unit.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Promote and embed the PHW Decarbonisation Action Plan within the organisation Welsh Gov Report March 2024:

The Health and Sustainability Hub will work with colleagues across PHW to support delivery of actions in the Decarbonisation Action Plan for 2022-24, and review progress to ensure our targets are on track. We are also supporting the development of PHW's next Decarbonisation Action Plan for 2024-26, due to be published in April.

Climate change perspectives - demographics report

This short report will present demographic breakdowns from key questions included in the national population survey on climate change perspectives in Wales. The short report will follow on from the 2022 report presenting the overall population results from the survey.

Co-Investigator on UK Leadership Hub for behavioural research:

Behavioural Research UK (BR-UK) is a new consortium funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) via the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The consortium serves as a leadership hub that is part of a wider ESRC funding programme to build national capability for behavioural research. BR-UK has been awarded £12 million funding over five years to drive interdisciplinary innovation in behavioural research targeted towards addressing major societal challenges.

Community of Practice Event Co-Hosted with Evaluation Team:

The behavioural science unit and PHW's evaluation team will bring together their communities of practice for an online event in March. The online event will focus on 'behaviourally informed evaluations' and will include an expert panel discussion, followed by examples of behavioural science and evaluation applied in practice.

The online event will also see the launch of the final two 'deep dive' tools developed by the unit 'identifying behaviour change techniques' and 'testing and evaluating behaviour change interventions'.

Produced translational futures resources that support tackling long-term health and equity challenges in Wales and beyond:

This resource is tailored to public health professionals in Wales and internationally. It highlights the benefits of using long-term thinking and planning tools to tackle issues that can cause health inequality. It includes case studies from Wales of where different tools and approaches have been applied and sign-posts to useful toolkits.

Health equity Expert Webinar: Gender Equity 7th March: Building blocks for gender equity: Strategies for a prosperous future for women in Wales.

This webinar will explore the links between gender and the wider determinants of health and will discuss the role of gender-inclusive policies in shaping equitable economies and health systems. It will be an opportunity to look at the prevailing gender inequalities which impact health beyond health services.

Webinar via Public Health Network Cymru

<https://publichealthnetwork.cymru/event/building-blocks-for-gender-equity-strategies-for-a-prosperous-future-for-women-in-wales/>

Wellbeing economy animation video developed:

Wellbeing Economy animation is being developed to showcase Wales as an influencer and innovation site for the Wellbeing Economy Approach.

Well-being Economy Deep Dive for Wales Report developed:

Wellbeing Economy Deep dive report for Wales developed to showcase the experience to shifting towards a Well-being Economy and show Wales as an influencer and innovation site. This aligns with the Policy Dialogue with WHO to be held later in 2024. The final version including Welsh will be launched at the Policy Dialogue.

Health Equity Frameworks and Tools - report and summary paper:

Publication on the WHESRI platform of a detailed report on international examples of Health Equity Frameworks and Tools, and an accompanying shorter summary paper.

Respond to the Welsh Government Consultation on the draft HIA regulations, on behalf of Public Health Wales

On behalf of Public Health Wales, WHIASU are coordinating the consultation response to the draft HIA regulations released by Welsh Government. This includes hosting an internal workshop with colleagues and interviews, as well as liaising with external public bodies regarding the regulations. An FAQs document has been released to support this work.

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/health-impact-assessment-hia-frequently-asked-questions/>

Masterclass on the Commercial Determinants of Health

A Masterclass for Public Health Wales colleagues on the commercial determinants of health is in preparation, coordinated by colleagues at the University of Stirling. The masterclass will be invite-only (invitees currently TBC) and will be held 25 March 2024.