

Board Report of the Chief Executive

30 September 2021

1 Launch of our new Improvement Cymru Strategy

Over the past few months, Improvement Cymru has worked with key stakeholders to develop a strong understanding of the quality and safety needs of the health and care service in response to ongoing challenges, the pandemic and policy developments.

As a result, we have developed a new Improvement Cymru strategy – *Achieving Quality and Safety Improvement 2021-2026*. This was launched on Friday 17 September which was World Patient Safety Day, and was aligned to the publication of the Welsh Government’s Quality and Safety Framework. The strategy outlines how the national team is moving away from sector specific national programmes to launch a new safety programme ‘Safe Care Together’, which will provide nationally coordinated, locally delivered support to organisations across the continuum of care. For more information, please visit [the website](#) to view the strategy, summary and launch video, and share where appropriate.

2 Joint Meeting with Public Health Scotland

On the 17 August, we had a joint meeting with Public Health Scotland. The meeting was an opportunity to share experiences and context on the broader population health harms. Our Scottish colleagues had a particular interest in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and so we shared our experiences in its implementation.

This was also an excellent opportunity for a number of the Executive Team in both organisations to build the relationship – particularly given that Public Health Scotland was only established on the 1 April 2020. The relationship between the two organisations will continue to strengthen over the coming months and years and further engagement is planned.

3 Engagement and Workshop with Local Authority Partners

We have been meeting fortnightly with all local authority chief executives and the chairs of the Strategic Coordination Groups since the middle of December. The meetings typically involve a short presentation on the current coronavirus context from Dr Giri Shankar, Professional Lead for

Health Protection, and Dr Fu-Meng Khaw, National Director for Health Protection and Screening Services/Executive Medical Director, followed by questions and answers and a general discussion in relation to the challenges and opportunities for local authorities through the course of the last few months.

As a result of these meetings, it was decided to have a workshop with Public Health Wales, local authorities, Directors of Public Protection Wales, Welsh Local Government Association, Welsh Government and health boards – represented by directors of public health. The workshop was co-designed by a small design group and took place on the 24 August. Its title was '*Working together to build healthy and sustainable communities*' and it focused on how we in Public Health Wales, and local authority partners, can support each other by working closely together in two particular areas of **health protection** and **community resilience**.

This was a very well attended event and was facilitated by Improvement Cymru. Speakers included Chris Brown, Head of the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development, the Chief Medical Officer and colleagues from local authorities and Public Health Wales. A number of actions were agreed and will be taken forward by the Design Group to develop a proposed way forward for all partners involved.

4 Executive to Executive Meeting with Health Education and Improvement Wales

On the 29 September, we had a joint Executive to Executive meeting with Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW). This was an opportunity for the respective Executive Teams to meet and discuss the respective priorities and areas of common interest and to identify areas where we can work more closely together as national bodies.

5 Healthcare Inspectorate Wales Annual Report 2020/2021

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) published their Annual Report 2020/2021 on the 23 September. The report captures the work of HIW during over the last year with a particular focus on infection prevention and control, the environment of care, workforce management and the delivery of healthcare in new settings, such as field hospitals and mass vaccination centres.

Although HIW did not undertake any direct review or inspection work in Public Health Wales during 2020/2021, they include a short section on the organisation within the report. This section references a wide range of the work that the organisation has undertaken in managing and support Wales through the Coronavirus pandemic. I have included below the final paragraph in this section which I think is an excellent testament to the work of all of our people across the organisation who have gone above and beyond over the last eighteen months.

The contribution of staff in PHW to the national effort in tackling COVID-19 must be commended. This includes microbiology staff who provided a 24/7 service to deliver test results, and staff from across all parts of the organisation who were released from their normal duties, and mobilised into new roles and functions to support the COVID-19 response.

6 Diverse Cymru – Cultural Competence Certification

We participated in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) *Cultural Competence Certification Scheme* that is run by Diverse Cymru. The Scheme is a workplace tool for organisations seeking to develop and implement good practice to ensure that the services they provide are fair and equitable. A range of over 70 organisations across the public, private and third sector took part.

The work involved putting together a suite of evidence under the following headings:

- ❖ Environment and organisational commitment
- ❖ Communication and Consultation
- ❖ Cultural Competence
- ❖ Professional Development
- ❖ Outcomes and Engagement

There are four levels of attainment in the scheme, and we achieved the second highest level of 'Competence'. This is an excellent acknowledgement of the work that has been done to date, and we look forward to continuing the journey of improvement to achieve the top level of 'Excellence' over the course of the next year.

I would like to express my extensive appreciation to Sarah Morgan, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, and our wonderful BAME Network for their support and leadership in such an important area for us and for our people.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive this information.

Tracey Cooper
CHIEF EXECUTIVE