



 <p>GIG CYMRU NHS WALES Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru Public Health Wales</p>	<p>Name of Meeting Business Executive Team Meeting Date of Meeting xxx Agenda item: xxx</p>
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Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy	
(APPENDIX 1 TO BOARD REPORT 28 NOV – Copy of Previous BET REPORT)	
Executive lead:	Professor Fu-Meng KHAW, National Director of Health Protection and Screening Services, Executive Medical Director
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Approval/Scrutiny route:	Public Health Wales Business Executive Team Health Protection & Screening Services Directorate Management Team Public Health Wales Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Group
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Purpose
This paper introduces Public Health Wales to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy (also known as the Hillsborough Charter) and requests that the organisation considers its adoption.

Recommendation:				
APPROVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Business Executive Team is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSIDER the detail contained within this report, the Charter and its six commitments. • ADOPT the charter at PHW. • APPROVE PHW engagement in a dialogue with partners across Wales to understand how we can collectively contribute to delivery on the commitments in the Charter through the local resilience fora. 				
Link to Public Health Wales <u>Strategic Plan</u>				

Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities and well-being objectives. This report contributes to the following:	
Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective	5 - Protecting the public from infection and environmental threats to health

Summary impact analysis	
Equality and Health Impact Assessment	Not applicable – purpose of the report is to appraise BET of the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy.
Risk and Assurance	Not applicable – purpose of the report is to appraise BET of the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy.
Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act	Not applicable.
Financial implications	Not applicable.
People implications	Not applicable.

1. Purpose / Situation

This paper introduces Public Health Wales to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy (also known as the Hillsborough Charter) and requests that the organisation considers its adoption.

2. Background

The Hillsborough stadium disaster on 15th April 1989 cost 97 people their lives.

In 2017, The former Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Reverend James-Jones, was commissioned by the Prime Minister as the Home Secretary's advisor on Hillsborough to produce a report on the experiences of the Hillsborough families so that their 'perspective was not lost'.

Bishop James' report, "[The patronising disposition of unaccountable power – A report to ensure that the pain and suffering of the Hillsborough families is not repeated](#)" provides an insight into the experiences of bereaved families in the years since, and recommends a series of necessary changes to the way in which public institutions treat the bereaved.

The Charter is one such recommendation.

3. Assessment

The Welsh Joint Emergency Services Group (WJESG) and Welsh Government have undertaken to adopt the recommendations from the Hillsborough Review captured through the Charter.



The intention is to develop pan-Wales delivery across local resilience forums, emergency responders, health, local authority, and the voluntary sector.

Public Health Wales (PHW) has been invited to attend an all-Wales executive workshop to explore the Charter through facilitated conversations to help organisations understand how they can collectively contribute to the Charter.

The session takes place on Tuesday 14th May. It will be led by Chief Officer team in South Wales Police on behalf of WJESG and the Chief Fire Officer for North Wales Dawn Docx; supported by Bishop James as the author of the Charter.

The Charter presents six commitments that an organisation should prioritise in the event of an emergency or major incident. These are:

1. In the event of a public tragedy, support the activation of emergency plans and deployment of resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable.
2. Place the public interest above our own reputation.
3. Approach forms of public scrutiny – including public inquiries and inquests – with candour, in an open, honest and transparent way, making full disclosure of relevant documents, material and facts. Our objective is to assist the search for the truth. We accept that we should learn from the findings of external scrutiny and from past mistakes.
4. Avoid seeking to defend the indefensible or to dismiss or disparage those who may have suffered where we have fallen short.
5. Ensure all members of staff treat members of the public and each other with mutual respect and with courtesy. Where we fall short, we should apologise straightforwardly and genuinely.
6. Recognise that we are accountable and open to challenge. We will ensure that processes are in place to allow the public to hold us to account for the work we do and for the way in which we do it. We do not knowingly mislead the public or the media.

3.1. Summary

The Charter was written to;

- Ensure the pain and suffering of families affected by the Hillsborough tragedy is not repeated in future tragedies.
- Obtain organisational commitment to being more 'people-focused' and provide vital services that meet the needs of people before, during and after an emergency or major incident.

The requirement is to;

- Obtain organisational approval to adopt the charter.
- Engage in a dialogue with partners across Wales to understand how we can collectively contribute to delivery on the commitments in the Charter through the local resilience fora.

Examples of organisations who have already committed include [Cardiff & Vale University Health Board](#), [Hywel Dda University Health Board](#), [Cwm Taf](#)



[University Health Board](#), [Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service](#), [London Fire Brigade](#) and the [National Police Chief's Council](#).

4. Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

PHW has an Emergency Response Plan which has been developed in line with the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the five ways of working.

Under schedule 1 of the CCA, PHW is a Category 1 Responder. The Act places several civil protection duties on the organisation in respect of risk assessment, emergency plans, business continuity, warning and informing, sharing of information and cooperation with local responders.

The plan adopts an all-hazards approach, helping to ensure that the organisational response is adaptable to a wide range of scenarios. It details all phases of response and incorporates clear processes to support rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating our communities.

The six commitments of this Charter are a fundamental to the organisations approach to all phases of emergencies and major incidents.

5. Recommendations

The Business Executive Team is asked to:

- **CONSIDER** the detail contained within this report, the Charter and its six commitments.
- **ADOPT** the charter at PHW.
- **APPROVE** PHW engagement in a dialogue with partners across Wales to understand how we can collectively contribute to delivery on the commitments in the Charter through the local resilience fora.