

## **WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Wellbeing at Public Health Wales Re-designation Awarded by the WHO Overview, March 2022**

<b>Executive lead:</b>	Professor Mark A Bellis, Executive Director Policy and International Health, the WHO CC at Public Health Wales
<b>Authors:</b>	Professor Mark A Bellis, Executive Director; and Dr Mariana Dyakova, Consultant in Public Health, International Health Lead and Deputy Director, Policy and International Health, the WHO CC at Public Health Wales
<b>Purpose:</b>	The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief overview of the re-designation of the WHO Collaborating Centre at Public Health Wales for another four years from March 2022 to March 2026.  This is presented to Board for information.
<b>Documents attached:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WHO CC re-designation letter from the WHO Regional Director for Europe to Public Health Wales Chief Executive</li> <li>2. WHO CC Terms of Reference and Work Plan 2022 – 2026</li> </ol>

## Overview

Following its designation in March 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre on 'Investment for Health and Wellbeing' (WHO CC) at Public Health Wales has been re-designated for another four years, until 2026. This is a milestone recognition as the Centre has been instrumental in positioning Public Health Wales and the whole of Wales as a global influencer and a live innovation site, championing innovative policies and solutions to make continuous improvement in people's health and wellbeing, and reducing health inequalities in Wales and beyond.

The Centre is the first and only WHO CC in this area of expertise in the world, part of a global network of more than 800 Collaborating Centres in more than 80 countries. The WHO CC designation and re-designation have built on a long history of collaboration with the WHO, working closely with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, its Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice, Italy (the Venice Office), as well as with the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, and other WHO offices and collaborating centres.

In the re-designation letter (attached), the WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr Hans Kluge, thanked the institution for the valuable contribution made during its previous period of designation and said that he was looking forward to a continuing successful collaboration.

Over the past four years, the Collaborating Centre has developed, synthesized and shared information, international guidance, actionable intelligence, practical tools and approaches on how to invest in a more sustainable way to improve people's wellbeing, reduce inequity, and build stronger, more resilient communities, economies and planet.

A milestone achievement of the Centre has been enabling and delivering to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Welsh Government and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, establishing for the first time an innovative WHO health equity initiative on a national level. The Welsh Health Equity Status Report initiative (WHESRi) provides a platform to inform, facilitate and support evidence- and stakeholder-informed, cross-sector multidisciplinary collaborative solutions and investment towards closing the health gap in Wales and beyond.

In addition, the Centre has produced a rich portfolio of policy informing reports, innovative tools, practical guidance and toolkits, frameworks, evidence synthesis, as well as organised and facilitated high-level and practice-oriented national and international events and stakeholder meetings towards accelerating progress in building a healthier, more equal, prosperous, resilient and globally responsible Wales and Europe.

The new WHO CC 4-year programme of work (attached) focuses on providing scientific and policy evidence and expertise to build capacity and implement effective inter-sectoral policies for health and equity across the life course. It also plans to innovate and harness economic and multi-disciplinary tools and approaches to support building an Economy of Wellbeing in Wales, exploring and

identifying solutions to the global challenges of widening health gap and socio-economic disparities, COVID-19 response and recovery, and climate change. Building on the work it has already undertaken, the WHO CC will be supporting the development of world-leading policies that drive investment for better, more equitable health and for safe and nurturing childhoods that increase health throughout the life course, working closely with Welsh and international partners and networks.

The WHO Collaborating Centre status contributes directly to Public Health Wales' vision and mission, and in particular to its international ambition to become a globally responsible, world leading, inspiring Public Health Institute, maximising the impact of international engagements and partnerships to protect, improve and promote health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequities within and beyond Welsh borders.

The Collaborating Centre status brings the following benefits:

1. Enhances our international impact as an exemplar and lead Public Health Institute, driving social, economic and environmental sustainability and better health, wellbeing and equity nationally and globally;
2. Enables a more effective and coherent cross-organisational, cross-sector and multidisciplinary work, developing and supporting innovative approaches, methods and practice, and developing our staff;
3. Gains increased visibility and recognition by national authorities, public and international organisations, and the opportunity to work with other WHO Collaborating Centres worldwide on information sharing, pooling resources and expertise, and technical cooperation;
4. Leads to and facilitates grant applications and income generation opportunities through, for example, delivering consultancy projects for other countries, public health institutes, European networks, consortia, etc.;
5. Enhances our international standing in the global health community associated with the WHO 'brand' facilitating further European and global collaborations and partnerships, such as with IANPHI (the International Association of National Public Health Institutes) and EuroHealthNet, accessing external resources, expertise and funding, especially relevant in relation to addressing the triple challenge of COVID-19, Brexit and climate change.

You can find more about the WHO Collaborating Centre and our work here: [Home - World Health Organization Collaborating Centre On Investment for Health and Well-being \(phwwhocc.co.uk\)](http://phwwhocc.co.uk)