

Chief Executive Board Report

31 March 2022

1 Ukraine Situation

The current atrocities happening in Ukraine are horrific and we clearly stand in support of our Ukraine friends, family and colleagues. Dr Fu-Meng Khaw, National Director for Health Protection and Screening Services/Executive Medical Director, will provide an update for the Board in more detail in relation to the work we have been doing within the organisation and with partners across Wales and the UK.

In addition, we have been working closely with our International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) colleagues to support the public health challenges in Ukraine and I attended an IANPHI meeting with Ukraine colleagues on the 4 March 2022. Weekly IANPHI meetings have now been established for mobilising support and expertise for Ukraine and the surrounding countries. In addition, we coordinated a meeting of the UK Public Health Agency Chief Executives, and lead directors, on the 9 March to consider how we can provide additional support to colleagues in Ukraine, and the wider region, and also to ensure that we are working closely across the UK on the domestic public health challenges that are emerging.

This is an evolving situation and we will keep the Board briefed on the work of the organisation in supporting and managing this unpredictable and challenging situation.

2 Draft Terms of Reference of the UK COVID-19 Inquiry

The draft terms of reference for the UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry have been published for consultation. The Inquiry will be chaired by Baroness Hallett and the intention is for the Inquiry to examine the UK's preparedness and response to the pandemic and to learn lessons for the future. The draft terms of reference are included as appendix 1 for information. It is anticipated that we will have an important role in providing evidence to the Inquiry and we have established mechanisms to prepare for the Inquiry.

We look forward to engaging with Baroness Hallett and her team over the coming months and year in supporting the Inquiry in whatever way we can.

3 Joint Executive Team Meeting with the Welsh Government Health and Social Services Group

On the 28 February we had our 2021/2022 mid-year accountability meeting with the Director General and officials in the Health and Social Services Group in the Welsh Government. This is an accountability meeting to review

the performance and delivery of our Annual Plan during the first half of the year. The meeting was delayed due to the pressures on teams with the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

This was a very constructive and positive meeting covering the breadth of our work across the organisation including the ongoing role we play in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, our recovery of core public health functions and our future strategic focus. The summary slide pack that we used for the JET meeting are attached in appendix 2, this was dated November 2021 which was the initial date, and performance was verbally updated during the meeting.

4 Together for a Safer Future: Wales' long-term COVID-19 transition from pandemic to endemic

The Welsh Government has published its plan for *Together for a safer future: Wales' long-term COVID-19 transition from pandemic to endemic*. The Plan contains eight principles to moving to a point of being accustomed to living within the context of the pandemic. These principles are:

- *We will move towards a more targeted response to manage the transition to endemic Covid-19 , prioritising protecting the most vulnerable and on maintaining relevant surveillance systems*
- *We will continue to adopt a gradual, phased and evidence-based approach to adapting our response, demonstrating transparency and acting in line with the clear scientific advice and public health consensus*
- *We will continue to assess the proportionality of our response so we can quickly reallocate resources to the many non-Covid challenges across Wales without putting the hard fought gains at risk.*
- *We will retain and build on the strengthened partnership working that has developed over the pandemic, applying it in all policy and delivery areas.*
- *We will maintain our priority of protecting children's rights and the education of children and young people in our ongoing response, including any Covid Urgent actions.*
- *We will renew our focus on tackling inequalities, including those exacerbated by the pandemic.*
- *We will learn from the experience of our pandemic response, building lessons learned into our business as usual activities and strengthening our capability for responding to any future crises or public health emergencies.*

➤ *We will continue to promote, and support, protective behaviours and environmental adaptations, to help keep individuals and communities safe.*

Members of our team have been actively involved with Welsh Government colleagues across a number of Government departments in order to help shape the content of the Plan. Our public health focus within this context, has been on the a) communicable disease elements, b) the burden of disease and the c) broader socio-economic and health harms. We will be working with Welsh Government colleagues and partners to support the implementation of the Plan.

5 Trauma-Informed Wales: A Societal Approach to understanding, preventing and supporting the impacts of Trauma and Adversity

On the 16 March 2022, The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Support Hub, in collaboration with Traumatic Stress Wales, launched a public consultation on a national trauma practice framework for Wales: *Trauma-Informed Wales: A Societal Approach to understanding, preventing and supporting the impacts of Trauma and Adversity*. This work was started in summer 2021, following the Welsh Government's review of ACEs policy which found that there was a need for further clarity around the terminology and approaches in Wales to trauma informed practice.

The aim of the framework is to help people, organisations and systems to prevent adversity and trauma and their associated negative effects. It will facilitate the development of a whole systems approach to supporting the needs of people who have experienced adversity and trauma and seeks to bring consistency and coherence to support that effort. This extends from the need for empathic, compassionate responses across all Welsh society and more acute and specialist interventions that may be required to support those who have clinical needs following experiences of trauma. The Framework provides agreed definitions and a consistency of understanding of what is meant by the different levels of practice in preventing adversity and trauma and supporting people affected by it.

The framework covers all ages, and all forms of adversity and traumatic events. An Expert Reference Group advised and supported the development of the document. Membership of this group includes people with lived experience, practitioners from a range of sectors, clinical and non-clinical leads and academics to ensure the Framework is truly co-produced and which places humanity at its heart. Several ACE Hub publications informed the draft including the recent reports on trauma informed approaches in Wales and a literature review of trauma informed terminology. The draft document was also discussed with established forums such as the Building a Healthier Wales Coordination Group, Youth Justice and Female Offending Blueprints project board, and Welsh Government Black, Asian and Ethnic

Minorities Mental Health group amongst others. **The public consultation will run for 12 weeks, close on the 17th June.**

The consultation document and how to respond can be found here English: <https://aceawarewales.com/trauma-informed-framework/>

Welsh: <https://aceawarewales.com/ymgyngghoriad-fframwaith-syn-seiliedig-ar-drawma/?lang=cy>

6 Stonewall Workplace Equality Index

I am delighted to say that we retained a place in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers list this year, rising from 100 to 64th place in the rankings. Just over four hundred organisations took part in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index (WEI) which is a benchmarking tool for employers to measure their progress on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender inclusion in the workplace, and recognises the continuous improvements that we are making each year.

In addition to this, we were thrilled to be awarded *Gold Employer* status by Stonewall, which is further acknowledgement of the progress we have made towards the inclusion of our wonderful LGBTQ+ people. Stonewall have also confirmed that we have ranked 6th in the Healthcare sector across the UK.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is a priority for Public Health Wales and we look forward to receiving full feedback from Stonewall to understand where we can continue to be an excellent employer for LGBTQ+ staff.

7 Update on the Review of Tuberculosis in Llwynhendy

The review of the response to the Tuberculosis (TB) outbreak in the Llwynhendy area, which has been jointly commissioned by Public Health Wales and Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB), will be slightly delayed. The report was due to be delivered around May 2022 and is now likely to be completed later in the year and presented to both Boards towards the end of 2022.

The delay is due to unforeseen issues in providing temporary contracts to the review panel, which meant they were unable to access information to carry out the review. Additionally, the rise in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant restricted access to sites. The contractual issues have now been resolved, along with the reduction in COVID-19 cases, meaning that the panel's work is now underway.

The review is being chaired by Professor Mike Morgan, previously NHS England's National Clinical Director for Respiratory Disease. It will examine whether the response to the outbreak since 2010 overall, and at each stage,

was conducted in accordance with best practice guidance in place at the time of each phase of the outbreak.

It will also review any reported cases of people identified over the course of the outbreak who have sadly died where the death certificate identified that TB contributed to or caused the death. Additionally, individuals who have developed active TB will also be reviewed to assess whether they have been managed appropriately.

8 Visibility Visits to our Teams

I am delighted to have been able to visit a number of our teams as part of reactivating my visibility series of visits. Over the last number of weeks, I have spent time visiting our wonderful microbiology teams in the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, Singleton Hospital in Swansea, Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth and Glangwili Hospital in Carmarthen. I also had the opportunity to visit our excellent Breast Test Wales team in Swansea. Being out and about with our staff are the best days and I am very much looking forward to seeing more of our staff over the coming weeks and months.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive this information.

Tracey Cooper
CHIEF EXECUTIVE