



Task and Finish Group Decarbonisation – Inhaler use and disposal 2025-2026

Terms of Reference

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Distribution:

- Task and Finish Group members and respective organisations
- National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions
- Primary Care Division
- Welsh Government
- Approach to Healthcare Project

Review Date: 1 June 2026

Purpose and Summary of Document:

This document describes the purpose and structure of the Task and Finish Group to provide a coordinated approach, national oversight, input, and support to address inhaler use and disposal in Wales aligned to the relevant initiatives in the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) (2021).

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The global challenge of climate change is well reported. As the first parliament in the world to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and following the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act in 2015, Wales' approach to sustainable development is firmly embedded.
- 1.2 Net Zero Wales sets out the ambition for the Welsh public sector to be collectively net zero by 2030 with the longer-term legally binding target of net zero emissions across all sectors by 2050.
- 1.3 The carbon footprint of healthcare is equivalent to 4.4% of global net emissions; the [NHS Wales 2018/19 Carbon Footprint](#) (hospitals only) has been calculated as approximately 1 million tonnes of CO₂e (2.6% of Wales's total greenhouse gas emissions).
- 1.4 Drugs and pharmaceuticals account for 23% of the [NHS Wales 2018/19 Carbon Footprint](#) (hospitals only). High global warming inhalers account for a large proportion of this.
- 1.5 The [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) (2021) (SDP) outlines decarbonisation activities (initiatives) that NHS Wales will address. Of these three initiatives relate directly to inhaler use and disposal.

2. Background

- 2.1 A Task and Finish Group (known hereafter as 'the Group') was established in January 2023 to provide a coordinated approach and national oversight, input, and support to several key areas towards reducing the carbon footprint of inhalers and encouraging responsible use and disposal of inhalers in Wales.
- 2.2 The Group was instrumental in developing the [Decarbonisation: inhaler prescribing, use and disposal 2023–2030 A national strategy for Wales](#) For 2024/25, it is proposed that the T&F group be restructured to focus on delivery of the strategy by the establishment of specific sub-delivery groups to support a smaller overarching T&F group. In particular, the delivery groups will focus and the implementation of SDP initiatives 42, 43, 44, and 46.

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3. Purpose

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Group is reconfigured with the relevant stakeholders to establish a smaller overarching Group and smaller delivery groups. (Appendix 1)
- 3.2 The aim of the Task and Finish Group is to provide a coordinated approach and national oversight, input, and support for several key areas to reduce the prescribing of high global warming potential (GWP) inhalers and increase responsible use and disposal of inhalers in Wales.
- 3.3 The Group will operate initially for a period of just over a year at which point it will be reviewed. The Group is to be constituted from **1 June 2024**.
- 3.4 It is anticipated the Group will report progress at regular intervals but will formally report at the end of year 2 (May 2025). Depending on the findings of this report the future of the Group will be scoped.
- 3.5 This document sets out the Terms of Reference for the Group including membership, how it will operate and be supported.

4. Core deliverables

- 4.1 The Group or members of the Group will work together through the delivery group to support implementation of the [Decarbonisation: inhaler prescribing, use and disposal 2023–2030 A national strategy for Wales](#).
- 4.2 Core deliverables will cover:
 - 4.1.2 An action plan of outputs (Appendix 2) to ensure a coordinated approach in implementing the Strategy.
 - 4.1.3 Liaison with the various stakeholders and networks to identify current and forecasted planned activity, notable practice, shared learning, and methods to cascade the learning and/or scale up across Wales and other UK devolved administrations.
 - 4.1.4 Use of drivers such as National Prescribing Guidelines, National Prescribing Indicators and National Respiratory Audits to encourage more environmentally sustainable prescribing, use and disposal of inhalers.

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- 4.1.5 Use of drivers such as National Prescribing Indicators and primary care contracts to encourage more environmentally sustainable prescribing, use, and disposal of inhalers.
- 4.1.6 A range of tools and resources to support implementation of the national asthma and COPD guidelines and repeat prescribing systems.
- 4.1.7 Benchmarking to highlight areas of notable practice and highlight prescribing practice that is not in line with the national guidelines.
- 4.1.8 Communication assets to support patients and professionals hosted in one accessible place.
- 4.1.9 Identify training and learning offers and agree mechanisms to signpost healthcare professionals to ensure they are appropriately informed, trained and carbon literate to assess a person's inhaler technique and offer more environmentally friendly products first line.
- 4.1.10 Scope and recommend options for inhaler recycling in Wales. This should be based on the findings of the pilot to recycle inhalers being conducted in Swansea Bay University Health Board, the pilot underway in England, and behavioral insights.
- 4.1.11 Work with governments of other UK nations and NHS colleagues across the UK, to agree and track common measures and maximise the impact of the work through collaboration and sharing of practice.

Several of the above functions are already being progressed, others will be considered for the progression of the Group member organisations whilst some may require commissioning and would require resources to be identified to support this.

Where expertise lies outside of the Group and member organisations, expertise will be sought to implement and deliver the key areas identified above.

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5 Frequency of Meetings

5.1 The Group will meet quarterly. A schedule of meetings will be agreed. Additional meetings will be arranged as determined by the Chair.

6 Membership

6.1 The Group will remain small and focused to enable rapid progress of the activities required.

6.1 The membership of the Group comprises of representatives of the following organisations initially (in alphabetical order):

- Chair of Four Nations delivery group
- Chair of the Communications and Engagement delivery group
- Chair of the Inhaler Disposal delivery group
- Chief Pharmacists/Directors of Pharmacy
- Community Pharmacy Wales
- National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions
- Public Health Wales
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- Welsh Government – Health and Social Care Climate Emergency National Programme
- Welsh Government –Pharmacy and Prescribing Branch

Details of members are in Appendix 3. Additional members may be co-opted into the Group when deemed appropriate.

6.2 The Task and Finish Group will work closely with the National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions regarding deliverables.

6.3 The Group will be chaired by Sian Evans, Primary Care Division, Public Health Wales.

6.4 Members will be expected to communicate to and from their respective organisations.

6.5 For instances of planned absence for the Chair, arrangements will be made for the deputy to Chair the meeting. In the event of unexpected absence, Chair arrangements will pass to another member, of the Group.

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7 Quorum and Attendance

- 7.1 A quorum shall consist of five members and must include a Chair or deputy and a Welsh Government representative.
- 7.2 Should any member be unavailable to attend, they may nominate a deputy to attend in their place. The Chair will be notified in advance of any meetings of the Group.
- 7.3 Additional representatives may be invited to attend, where appropriate, and subject to agreement with the Chair.
- 7.4 The Group will meet in private; papers will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The Group will approve reports for publication.

8 Governance arrangements

- 8.1 The Group will report to the Approach to Healthcare (ATH) Project Board which in turn reports to the Welsh Government Health and Social Care Climate Emergency Board. Reporting will be via Natalie Proctor, the Primary Care Division, Welsh Government,
- 8.2 Members of the Board will be collectively accountable for the delivery of the Group's work program.
- 8.3 Members will take decisions/action(s) on behalf of those they represent.

9 Administration

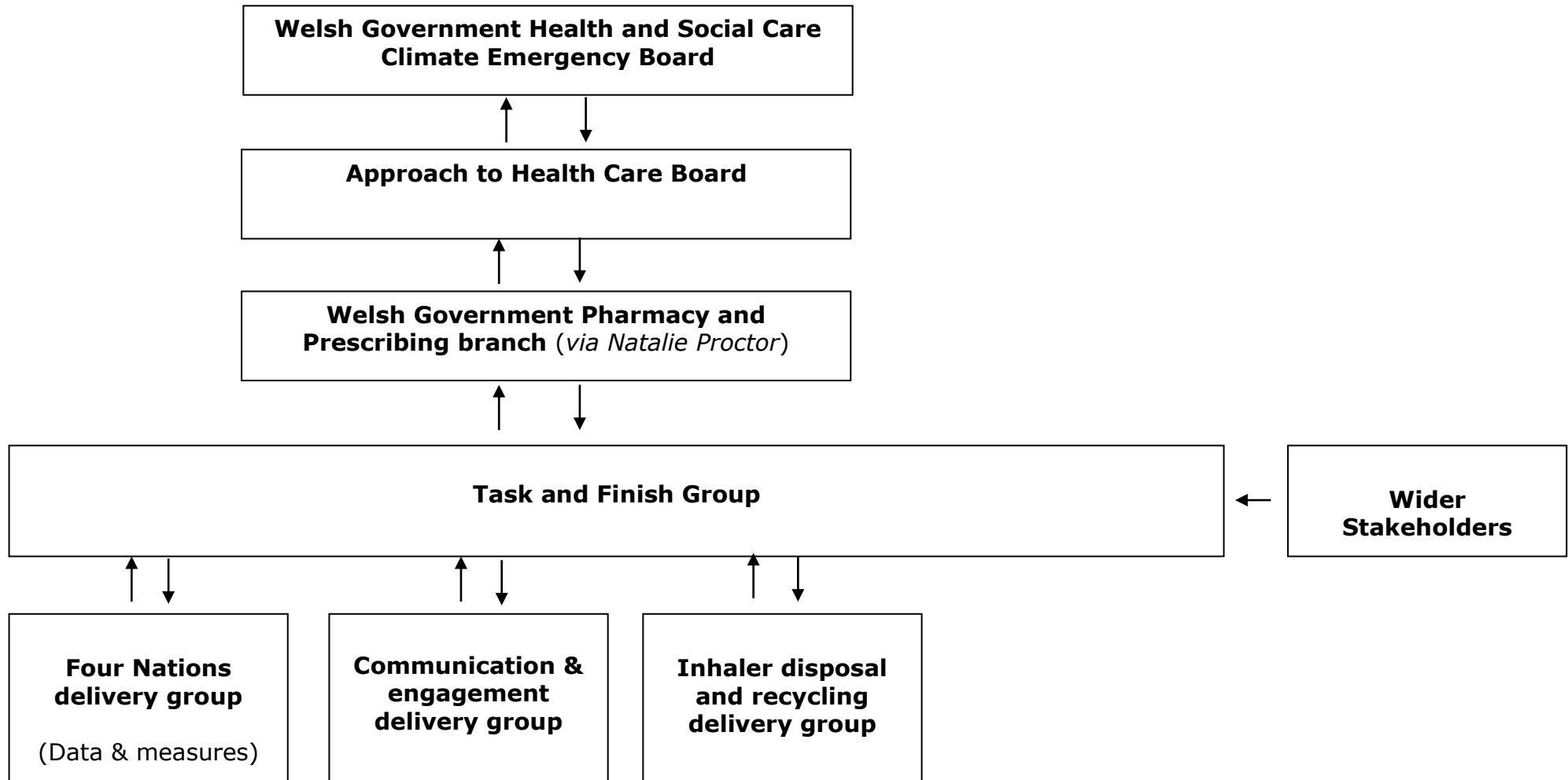
- 9.1 The secretariat support will be provided by Public Health Wales.
- 9.2 Papers will be agreed and approved by the Chair.
- 9.3 All agenda items and supporting papers must be submitted two weeks before the meeting for the Chair's approval.
- 9.4 Papers will be distributed five working days prior to the meeting.
- 9.5 Minutes will be agreed by the Chair and action points will be circulated within ten working days of the meeting.

10 Review Date

- 10.1 Review date 1 June 2026.

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APPENDIX 1 – ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



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APPENDIX 2 – Members of the overarching Task and Finish Group

Name	Organisation
Natalie Proctor	Welsh Government
Richard Boldero	AWTTC
Anthony Gibson	NHS Wales CTM
Sian Evans	Public Health Wales
Iwan Hughes	Royal Pharmaceutical Society Wales
Kayleigh Williams	Community Pharmacy Wales
Joseph Carter	Asthma and Lung UK
Jakie Reynolds	NHS Wales
Ann Corp	Welsh Government
Kieran Harris	Welsh Government
Jonathan Simms	Clinical Director of Pharmacy – CTM