

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance
Executive Lead:	Claire Birchall, Executive Director
Reporting Month:	May and June 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	15 July 2026
Board Meeting Date:	30 July 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month(s):

Quality Impact Assessment (QIA): procedural development work continues following presentation at the Public Health Wales (PHW) Business Executive Team on 20th May 2026.

PHW Equalities Steering Group: formation of this internal Group and inaugural meeting held on 6th June.

Clinical Governance: planning meeting held and draft Terms of Reference created with the inaugural meeting scheduled for 6th July.

AMaT audit system: ongoing implementation of the AMaT system to maximise its potential for the management of NICE guidance notification and Safety Notices / Alerts.

National Safeguarding Service: the Director of National Safeguarding Service (NSS) continues to lead the Safeguarding Review (retrospective) Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). Reports for Cohorts 1 and 2 are in final draft. Work continues, including proposal for next steps and finalising work for the approach to Cohort 3.

Integrated Governance: continuing work to operationalise the Delegation of Authority. Ongoing discussions with directorates and divisions as to where and how business decisions are made and reported. Provided governance support to Screening Division.

Records Management: audit process drafted which will be tested within the organisation prior to rollout.

Successes:

Listening to People Regulations: socialisation and transition to the new Regulations.

Incident closure rates: overdue incidents reduced from 64 (March 2025) to 47 (April 2026); longest overdue incident reduced from 342 days to 86 days.

NQIG SharePoint Audit: the initial audit of all NQIG SharePoint and intranet pages has been completed successfully. A six-monthly audit cycle will be implemented to maintain oversight going forward.

Any Concerns being managed:

Sexual Health Wales Team: ongoing safeguarding support continues.



Consent training: following a review of all staff within the organisation to identify which staff should undertake consent training; compliance rates have dropped due to more staff needing training than had previously been identified. Work is underway to address this.

Higher level Safeguarding training: concerns around compliance rates across the organisation.

Staffing resource implications: due to two secondments ending in September 2026 in the Improvement and Innovation Hub space.

Forward Look of key activities for next month:

Welsh Risk Pool Consent Audit Findings: review of and implementation of recommendations.

Clinical Governance Framework: revision and group formation.

PHW Equalities Steering Group: Terms of Reference drafted for consideration at next meeting on 7th July.

National Safeguarding Service: Completion and publication of NHS Wales Guidance: Managing Safeguarding Allegations for People/Those in Positions of Trust (Section 5).

Launch of the NQIG Policy and Procedure Management System: a new process will be introduced to support the active management and timely review of policies and procedures, providing clear oversight and improved planning to ensure NQIG policies remain up-to-date.

Information Governance: revised Data Protection Impact Assessment process being rolled out within PHW.

Integrated Governance: attendance and presentation of PHW Policies and Procedures to Screening Senior Management Team.

Risk Management: continuing deep dive programmes on Strategic Risk Register and Corporate Risk Register by Business Executive Team and Leadership Team respectively.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Research, Data and Digital
Executive Lead:	Iain Bell
Reporting Month:	May and June 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	15 July 2026
Board Meeting Date:	30 July 2026
Overview of Key Activities During the Month	
<u>Research & Evaluation / Evidence</u> • Finalising evaluation of the Wales cell-free DNA testing programme, which aims to reduce unnecessary anti-D use among RhD-negative pregnant women. Using a quasi-experimental natural experiment design, we are assessing its impact on anti-D use. Findings will be available in August 2026. • Finalising evaluation of the Health Information for All Parents initiative, implemented by the Health and Wellbeing Directorate, to explore how parents across Wales use the resources. Findings will be available in August 2026. • Three UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funded Policy Fellows in Public Health Wales, covering climate, gambling and policy modelling are going through the UKRI recruitment process. • Digital Inclusion Research event led by Research Team in Public Health Wales (PHW), funded by National Institute for Health and Care Research, was well attended with representation from across the UK including Welsh Government (WG), Good Things Foundation and voluntary sectors. Agreement to build on research to date through Digital Inclusion Alliance Wales and in line with WG digital strategy. • Research bid submitted to Cancer Research UK on understanding early signs and inequalities in pancreatic cancer in Wales. <u>Data</u>	

- Migration of analysis to cloud (National Data and Analysis Platform) on track to complete first phase by end July.
- Sexual Health incident analytical support.
- Commenced work for the Deputy Chief Medical Officer on the quality impact of incomplete clinical coding on hospital mortality indicators.

Digital

- Digital Health Protection: Early access of read-only Digital Health Protection (DHP) released to stakeholder subject matter experts. Confirmed full list of functionalities for phase 2 go-live (Jan 2027).

Registries

- Congenital Anomaly Registration & Information Service (CARIS) team representatives attended 4 Nations Rare Diseases surveillance meeting at Newcastle University (4th & 5th June 2026), funded by LifeArc research grant.
- Submission of interim report on the Child Death Review project (a multiagency project led by PHW to make recommendations relating to the child death review system in Wales) to WG.

Successes

Research & Evaluation / Evidence

- PHW facilitated the Health Equity Wales (HEW)/Marmot Nation Theory of Change workshop for WG colleagues on 28 May, bringing together 32 stakeholders from across the system.
- PHW also attended the Collaboration for Health Equity Scotland/ HEW – Marmot Nation Exchange meeting on the 4th June in Glasgow, supporting WG colleagues in shaping their approach to the Theory of Change and the evaluation of the HEW/Marmot Nation programme.
- Gambling harms prevention research prioritisation workshop held with internal and external stakeholders.

Data

- Publication of statistics and analysis: first publication of the [Primary school children's health and well-being dashboard](#), Child Measurement Programme annual report, Public Health Outcomes Framework update.
- Monthly Real-Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance output is the first productionised output successfully migrated to and running on the cloud (National Data and Analysis Platform).
- Web migration completed.
- Waiting lists analysis for healthy life expectancy shared with the Chief Medical Officer
- Supported Y Farchnad at the Senedd, much interest from new MSs on healthy life expectancy, weight loss drugs and physical activity.
- Health Data Research UK Black Internship Programme – two interns started with us 29th June.
- Cancer – supported WG request for age specific counts and averages and responded to a media enquiry on HPV vaccinations and the impact on cervical cancer.
- Cancer – emerging findings of the analysis of inequalities, rurality and survival in SAIL (Secure Anonymised Information Linkage) databank presented to the clinical reference group, with very positive feedback.

Digital

- DHP: Well received engagement sessions with PHW Emergency Preparedness Resilience & Response Network and Local Authorities. Completed Entra registration enabling early access to dev environment.

Any Concerns being managed

Data

- WG pause and review has put pressure on Data, Analysis, Registers and Cloud delivery, both through introducing cost pressures, and meaning that we cannot recruit more data engineers. Programme delivery timescales are being assessed. We anticipate a resolution from WG in July.
- DHCW capacity to support our Cloud migration is under even more pressure due to both the pause and review and their recruitment freeze. Access to data in the right place at the right time remains a significant challenge.

Digital

- DHP: Pause and review of National Data Resource programme by WG. has resulted in Digital Health and Care Wales stopping Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) data being available in the Care Data Repository. As a result, DHP will have to access LIMS data from an alternative source. This will require additional work. An alternative source has been identified, and the details are being worked through. At present, no risk to programme delivery schedule.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Research & Evaluation / Evidence

- Publication of the Health Equity Wales/Marmot Nation Theory of Change workshop report.
- Publication of the cell free DNA testing outcome evaluation of cell-free DNA testing.
- Launch of the research partnership MoU with Cardiff University on the 2nd July.
- Publication of the Vision for Academic Public Health expected 15th July.

Data

- Completion of phase 1 migration of analysis to the Cloud. Phase 2 (benefits realisation) planning completed.
- Official statistics publication: Cancer mortality, 15th July. This will be the first publication from the cloud.

Digital

- DHP: Completion of phase 1 of the programme as per scheduled Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP) milestone. 6-week period of intense activity to gather all requirements ahead of build for phase 2. Revision of contractual milestones to align with delivery approach (no change to overall cost or completion date).

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Policy and International Health
Executive Lead:	Sumina Azam
Reporting Month:	May and June 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	15 July 2026
Board Meeting Date:	30 July 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

Public Health Network Cymru Webinar - 'Financial Well-being in Wales – A Driver for Better Health'

The Polisi team lead the development of a webinar in collaboration with members of the Financial Wellbeing Delivery Plan for Wales Steering Group which brought together national experts to explore how improving financial wellbeing can support better health, reduce inequalities, and strengthen wellbeing across communities in Wales. The session also provided an opportunity to promote relevant resources and tools that can help organisations and individuals improve financial wellbeing and support healthier communities. <https://publichealthnetwork.cymru/event/financial-well-being-in-wales-a-driver-for-better-health/>

HIA Regulations (Wales) 2025 preparation and implementation

The WHIASU team delivered a lunch and learn awareness raising session to Public Health Wales staff, to highlight the HIA process, the upcoming HIA regulations and what this means for Public Health Wales and a similar session to external hour-long session to Welsh Government and NHS Planning Leads. The team also supported the Environmental Public Health Team, HPSS Directorate, PHW to carry out a HIA on Data Centres in Wales. Liz Green also presented at the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) conference and the HIA work in Wales was referenced and discussed in several sessions.



Housing and health:

We presented as part of a EuroHealthNet Policy Lab to explore how affordable housing can help deliver healthier, more inclusive and affordable housing and what it takes to make it work in practice.

We presented recent housing work to members of the Welsh Government Housing Policy Senior Leadership Team (Deputy Directors), demonstrating the links between housing conditions and health outcomes, and highlighting how healthy housing policy can deliver benefits for the NHS and wider society. The presentation led to an invitation to join the steering group for the Welsh Housing Quality Standards and opened opportunities for further strategic engagement, including interest from the Cabinet Minister for Housing.

Guide for the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to advocate for and support action to foster social connection:

We launched a guide on how to create connected places for health and well-being at a WHO online event, based on the research published earlier this year *From Loneliness to Social Connection*. Speakers included WHO Commission representatives and the Minister of State for Measures of Loneliness and Isolation for Japan, and the Mayor of Geneva.

6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

Green Advocates Network:

The first Green Advocates session of 2026 was held on 26 March and included updates on PHW's work on sustainable travel within the organisation and nationally, climate adaptation work within PHW, and the publication of PHW's new Climate Response Plan 2026-28. There was also an open Q&A to hear from members on feedback and ideas for change.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

WFG Act Champions Group Action Plan:

An action plan has been implemented for both the WFG Act Champions Group and the Health & Sustainability Hub to further embed the WFG Act within PHW, including the 5 Ways of Working.

The actions are based on a brainstorming session with the WFG Act Champions Group in 2025, the outcomes of which were synthesised into four key themes: governance and leadership, capacity building, communication, and 7 corporate areas of change.

The Hub also led the writing and collation of the PHW Annual Report section, reporting on our work towards the wellbeing objectives and how we are implementing the WFG Act within our organisation as part of legislative requirements.

Global Public Health Forum and IHCC enabling international learning work



May's Global PH Forum featured a wide range of speakers from Aberystwyth University, the Arts Council for Wales and Public Health Wales focusing on Global Health challenges, Well-being Economy and the Decolonialisation of International Health. The International Health Coordination Centre delivered a 'What is a Global Citizen?' workshop with the BCUHB Public Health Team as part of Public Health Wales' Global Citizenship Learning Programme and published its quarterly newsletter.

Behavioural Science Community for Wales gathering:

On 20 May, over 120 colleagues from Public Health Wales and our stakeholders attended an online session co-delivered by the Behavioural Science Unit and Prof. Robert West, University College London. To strengthen capability and application of the leading-edge evidence in activities for better health by the health system in Wales - the session provided an accessible introduction to the recently published (and globally recognised) COM-B 2.0 model for behaviour change. The high level of participation demonstrates interest across the Welsh system and contributes to increasing the routine use of behavioural science.

Time to Talk Public Health:

The TTPH February 2026 survey report covered warm homes and health; violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence; second-hand smoking; and child poverty.

The report findings along with the demographic breakdown spreadsheet are being used by teams to inform work programmes and outputs, including presentation at an upcoming Winter Pressures group.

Understanding Public Attitudes to Physical Activity, Portion Sizes and Food Environments to Inform Policy and Targeted Health Promotion

Using the Time to Talk Public Health population panel, two national surveys generated important evidence to support public health policy and practice in Wales.

The first survey examined awareness and uptake of the 2019 UK physical activity guidelines across different demographic groups. The findings provided evidence to support more targeted communications and interventions to increase physical activity participation and maximise the impact of health promotion efforts and will be used to inform the next guidelines update in 2029.

The second survey explored public attitudes and behaviours relating to portion sizes, meal choices and food environments. The findings have helped inform policies and campaigns aimed at improving dietary behaviours, reducing obesity, and addressing health inequalities. The report achieved extensive media coverage online, including being a top story on BBC News, in print, and on the radio (in Wales and England).

<https://phwwhocc.co.uk/resources/time-to-talk-public-health-food-environments-and-portion-size-behaviours-in-wales/>

<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/23/1/5?utm>

Behavioural science support for Winter Pressures communications:

To support the optimisation of the 2026-27 winter pressures public communications activity, the Behavioural Science Unit has (and continues to) provided specialist advice to our Winter Well-being and Safety Comms Group. The advice is focused on barriers and enablers to high impact health behaviours during winter, and using evidence from behavioural science to strengthen planning, development and implementation. The group are utilising the dual focus framework and associated messaging from the Winter Wellbeing report that we published in the run-up to planning for winter 2025-26.

Behavioural Science Unit End of Year Review (2025-26) published:

The Unit published its end-of-year review capturing the scale, depth and impact of its work. Over the past 12 months, the Unit has supported more than 50 teams across PHW and partners to deliver 107 projects; delivered more than 60 workshops, presentations and seven publications. The report also summarised our annual event with 150+ attendees and including a keynote from CMO; our efforts in integrating behavioural science into five headline plans, policies and frameworks across the system; and in producing 12 evidence briefs, contributing to three research projects and four peer-reviewed papers, and leading surveys and process evaluations.

Successes

Financial Well-Being as a Building Block for Health

A [financial wellbeing narrative](#) was developed collaboratively through a partnership between the Money and Pensions Service, the Welsh Government, and members of the Financial Wellbeing Delivery Plan for Wales Steering Group. Bringing together expertise from across government, public health, financial services, and the third sector, the resource reflects a shared commitment to improving financial wellbeing and reducing the inequalities that impact health and wellbeing across Wales.

Behaviour Change Agents Programme 2.0

The Behavioural Science Unit's Behaviour Change Agents programme was launched in June 2026. It aims to develop sustainable behavioural science capacity across Public Health Wales and its partners to support more equitable health and wellbeing outcomes. The programme attracted over 70 applicants, with around half selected. Participants from PHW, health boards, Welsh Government, WLGA, HEIW, NHS P&I and local government have completed an induction webinar and interactive modular E-Learning, supported by facilitated consolidation sessions. The remaining programme focuses on action learning and a peer-led community of practice.

Any Concerns being managed:



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales

- Anything it would be helpful to bring to Exec attention

Forward Look of key activities for next month

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

Why Gender Matters: Child Poverty and Health Inequities:

We will publish a suite of resources: *Why Gender Matters* report and infographic which focuses on policy actions and solutions to reduce child poverty and health inequalities; and an evidence briefing on economic inactivity.

2 - Promoting mental and social well-being

The health and financial costs of ACEs in Wales and England - an update:

Findings from this study suggest a substantially greater financial burden of ACEs than previously calculated, with total costs almost tripling from our previous estimates for England and more than tripling for Wales.

3 – Promoting Healthy Behaviours

The Cost of Smoking in Wales report developed between Well-being Economics and Value and Smoking Cessation teams will be published in July 2026.

6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

Local Authority Guide for Active Travel

Working closely with Transport for Wales, who provide guidance and support to Councils, the Behavioural Science Unit will start scoping a new guide, to support planning, development and implementation of active travel - to be published in Feb 2027.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

International Health Insights (Horizon Scanning)

Planned areas of work include:

- Public Health Nursing – an international overview of public health nursing
- Approaches to Measuring Spend on and Shifting Health Budgets Towards Prevention Internationally, Sept 2026

The International Health Coordination Centre led NHS Wales International Health Activity Group will meet in July and the International Health Newsletter Issue 11 will be published in August

Future Generations Commissioners Office Partnership Agreement

PHW and FGCO will work together to shift NHS Wales toward prevention using data, budgets and future insights as part of our ongoing joint working.

Behavioural science support to new breathlessness management intervention:



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales

The Behavioural Science Unit and NHS P&I developed self-management approach for the national breathlessness pathway will be piloted and evaluated in July. The Behavioural Science Unit and NHS P&I developed a self-management approach for the national breathlessness pathway, which will be piloted and evaluated in July. The Unit co-designed production of resources and training focused on breathless management behaviours most likely to help improve quality of life and reduce NHS service demand. Following piloting the approach will be embedded in national clinical pathways.

Behavioural science support to Cervical Screening Wales self-sampling pilot

Specialist advice has contributed to this new pilot service offer. Evidence briefs, informing the user-testing and insight approaches, and honing communications for patients and clinician have all been provided, and will be tested in the piloting.

Behavioural Science Community for Wales webinar

This aims to explore how behavioural science can optimise digital services and interventions. The User Centred Design team and the Behavioural Science Unit from NHS England will share projects on developing digital interventions and using behavioural science principles and evidence.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	People & Organisational Development
Executive Lead:	Neil Lewis
Reporting Month:	May/June 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	
Board Meeting Date:	

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

- Welsh Language Annual Reports: The Welsh Language Standards Annual Report and More Than Just Words Annual Update for 2025/26 were approved by Leadership Team in June.
- Welsh Language Standard 110 – Clinical Consultation Plan: The Welsh Language Team recently met with Welsh Language Commissioner and Welsh Government colleagues to update on our progress with meeting the targets of our [Clinical Consultation Plan](#). The meeting was a success and the efforts made by both Screening Division and Help Me Quit to meet the targets and increase our ability to offer clinical consultations in Welsh were acknowledged by the Commissioner and Welsh Government.
- The 2026 Eisteddfodau: The [Urdd Eisteddfod](#) was held on Ynys Mon between 23-29 May. Public Health Wales staff from Screening, VPDP, Hapus, the Ymlaen staff network, the Welsh Language Team and ACE HUB Cymru were on the NHS Wales and More Than Just Words stall promoting Public Health Wales and the variety of our work and services. We had a successful few days sharing information about our services and having great conversations with members of the public. Diolch yn fawr iawn to all staff who supported our attendance at the Urdd. We now look forward to attending the [National Eisteddfod](#) in Pembrokeshire in August.
- Staff Survey Results for different staff groups have been discussed with Trade Unions and Professional Associations through our staff forums, JMDNC and LPF. Plus, free text overviews have been generated and shared to relevant parties.
- The 2026/27 schedules for Developing People Managers and Personal Development Programmes have begun.
- Learning at Work Week took place week commencing 18 May with the theme 'Many ways to learn'.
- Leadership and Management Academy Sessions took place for Cohorts 8 and 9.
- A Leadership Community of Practice session on Distributed Leadership: Unlocking Collective Action took place on 25 June.

- People and OD colleagues attended SET for a conversation on the development of People Manager Fundamentals.
- A My Contribution Policy Review Workshop was held on 30 June.
- Applications for High Cost Training Funding and HEIW Advanced Practice / Extended Skills Funding were reviewed.
- We delivered a series of awareness-raising sessions for colleagues on several revised All-Wales policies, including the updated Disciplinary Policy and Process, the Improving Performance at Work Policy (for Agenda for Change colleagues) and the Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy (for all colleagues).
- Key campaigns and awareness days were marked during May and June which included IDAHOBIT, Pride Month, Dementia Awareness Week, Men's Health Week, National Windrush Day and Carers Week.
- Recruitment activity increased during May and June. Work has continued to monitor recruitment performance and support directorates to progress recruitment activity in a timely and consistent way.
- Implementation of the DBS Update Service continued, strengthening organisational safeguarding assurance and supporting more consistent oversight of DBS compliance across eligible roles.
- Job Evaluation improvement activity continued.
- An internal news story was published to mark Armed Forces Week, raising awareness among colleagues and reinforcing our commitment to recognising and supporting the Armed Forces community.
- Campaign for Mental Health Awareness Week took place in May.
- The first Wellbeing Champion meeting took place, following training at the end of March.
- Wellbeing Workshops for managers and colleagues were commissioned (10 sessions in total for 2026/27, starting July 2026)
- The Employee Assistance Programme provision is being reviewed with a view to extend existing arrangements for a further year, until July 2027.
- The national Future Workforce Solution programme has progressed into the Foundational Readiness phase, with revised all-Wales governance arrangements established to support implementation planning across NHS Wales. Public Health Wales is participating in national readiness forums and continues to work with partners across Wales to prepare for the transition from ESR.
- A Public Health Wales Future Workforce Solution Working Group was established to coordinate early readiness activity and assess organisational requirements ahead of the confirmation of the organisation's implementation wave and timeline. Initial work is focused on governance, data quality, process standardisation and organisational readiness.
- National and local work continues to implement the reformed Resident Doctor contract for Wales, which will apply to all new Resident Doctors who commence in August 2026.
- Cultural Advocates (CAs) - In **January** we reinvigorated the CAs group, of which we have 32 members. We began by holding a series of workshops to measure feelings, identify journey stage, and needs. In **April** we launched the CAN (CA Network) which meets every 4-6 weeks to connect, support, inspire, enable progress and share some of the great work already underway. In **May**, Sumina became the CAN's Executive Sponsor. In **July** we will be meeting SET to

share progress to date, highlight what is working / not working, bring lived experience into the room and engage with SET on how we can come together to create our desired culture.

Successes

- A new partnership has been established with Working Options Wales to support early careers engagement across Wales. This supports delivery of actions within the Strategic Equality Plan and People Strategy by widening access to careers information and opportunities.

Any Concerns being managed:

- Whilst plans are in place to manage the national and local work required to implement the reformed Resident Doctor contract for Wales the timeline is tight and any delays would create risk for PHW.
- The review of the 2026-27 IMTP commitments which are currently not approved means there is uncertainty about what will be required of POD to enable the organisation.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

- In July, we will...
 - Begin work to create a single workplan for POD.
 - Review how we work across the directorate as a Leadership and Management community.
 - Take a deep dive into the outputs of the 2025-2026 strategic workforce planning round to PODCOM for assurance. The Committee will also consider Strategic Risk 2 and receive a Change Management update, and the Welsh Language Annual Reports will be presented for final approval in before publication in September.
 - Seek volunteers to further support our partnership with Working Options Wales, helping to inspire young people aged 14-19 and promote Public Health Wales as an employer of choice.
 - Continue revising the My Contribution Policy.
 - Continue onboarding Leadership and Management Academy Cohort 10 (North Wales). Cohorts 8 and 9 will complete the formal learning programme. Deep Dive #8 'Calling out negative behaviours' will take place on 20 July.
 - Continue to develop the People Manager Fundamentals programme
 - Hold a Wales UKPHR Practitioner Scheme Pre-Application Workshop
- The next New Colleague Networking Event will take place on 28 July.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health Protection and Screening Services Directorate
Executive Lead:	Meng Khaw
Reporting Month:	May and June 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	15 July 2026
Board Meeting Date:	30 July 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Protection Division

- Published the Vaccine Equity Toolkit, a co-produced resource to support staff in improving vaccine equity in Wales.
- Initiated a new quarterly monitoring process for suspected drug-related deaths across Wales (as requested by Welsh Government in the Programme Level Agreement). The first quarterly report (Jan–March) has been circulated to key stakeholders.
- Held a Health Protection Culture Allies discussion to launch a focused forum supporting delivery of the culture action plan.
- Continued support for incidents involving *Cryptosporidium parvum*, Hepatitis A, and *Clostridium perfringens*. Work is underway to develop a protocol for epidemiological input into Incident Management Teams (IMTs)/ Outbreak Control Teams (OCTs) to ensure consistency and quality.

Infection Services Division

- *Cryptosporidium* Reference Unit supported investigations into 17 outbreaks in England and four in Wales, primarily linked to lamb contact events.
- Bacteriology engaged with primary care regarding urine sample requests via pharmacies in the Swansea Bay area.
- Toxoplasma Reference Unit contributed to development of the UK Standard for Microbiology Investigations (SMI) 16 Postmortem Microbiology document.
- Abbott and Roche interim contracts progressing well.
- Provided IMT support for hantavirus and hepatitis C.

- Established an all-Wales hantavirus infectious diseases rota.
- Hosted a virtual work experience day (200 attendees) led by Pathology Training Leads.
- National School of Healthcare Science agreed to remove work-based training logbooks from the Practitioner Training Programme.

Screening Division

- Established the Screening Colonoscopy Improvement Programme (SCIP) within Bowel Screening Wales.
- Newborn Hearing Screening 'Both Ears Clear' pilot progressing well.
- Diabetic Eye Screening Wales camera evaluation project progressing well.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Progressing work on the Inequalities in EPRR project and incorporating feedback from the International Association of National Public Health Institutes / Public Health Advisory Committee phase.
- Supporting the Workforce Development Trust in the development of National Occupational Standards for Resilience and Emergencies.
- Contributed to the Internal Business Continuity Audit.
- Represented Public Health Wales at numerous key strategic and operational forums, including UK 4 Nations Health Protection Committee and Wales Resilience Partnership.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Working with People and Organisational Development on e-Roster implementation to support junior doctor contract implementation.
- Engaging with Health Education and Improvement Wales on Public Health training programme development.
- Collaborative working with Health Protection and Screening Services and Nursing, Quality & Information Governance colleagues on Learning at Wales platform hosting the postgraduate education e-Centre.
- Ongoing engagement in resident junior doctor contract implementation.
- Held Clinical Governance Steering Group meeting.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme: MEDUSA Phases 1 and 2 nearing completion; awaiting final sign-off. First team to achieve end-to-end automation.
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme: Mentorship project progressing towards rollout; centralised guidance resource developed.
- EPRR inequalities workshop report in development.

Successes

Health Protection Division

- Multiple abstracts accepted for the 5 Nations Health Protection Conference.
- Led drafting of UK National Screening Committee consultation on Hepatitis C screening in pregnancy.
- Advanced development of the Sexual Health Annual Report 2026.
- Submitted sexually transmitted infection and HIV data to UK Health Security Agency.
- Published Vaccine Equity Toolkit.
- Represented Public Health Wales in coal tip safety legislation governance.

Infection Services Division

- Lord Carter visit to University Hospital Wales (UHW) as part of National Pathology Programme.
- Successful sealability testing of two Containment Level 3 labs at University Hospital Wales (UHW).
- Positive European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) conference feedback; article submitted to Public Health Wales Research and Development newsletter.
- Published joint Cryptosporidium 2025 report with UK Health Security Agency.
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit and Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre established outbreak data sharing system in Wales.
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit presented at 2nd Biennial Cryptosporidium meeting, Edinburgh.

Screening Division

- Strong Health Board engagement in Screening Colonoscopy Improvement Project (SCIP), with improved waiting times.
- Good representation at Public Health Wales Nursing and Midwifery Conference.
- Diabetic Eye Screening pathway video launched.
- Bowel Screening Wales successful social media engagement (Lads & Dads event).
- Diabetic Eye Screening Wales supporting events linked to Diabetes week in June.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Public Health Wales participated in NHS Wales Clinical Capacity Exercise (linked to management of mass casualties), supported Swansea Bay University Health Board Exercise Echo 3 in testing its Major Incident Procedure.
- Public Health Wales Participation in Exercise PEGASUS; Phase Four, Tier 1 national pandemic preparedness exercise (national level only for this phase).

- Successfully delivered a national debrief to reflect on the Wales multi-agency response to the MV Hondius Hantavirus Incident, discuss and examine areas of best practice and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Successfully prepared and delivered a multi-agency Prison Tuberculosis Exercise for Wales.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Investigation Officer Training attended by four OMD staff.
- Successful completion of Advanced Leadership & Management in Nursing Practice completed by Clinical Governance Manager.
- Attendance at Policy and International Health, World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre Directorate meeting to educate and promote the activities of the OMD Team

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Risk assessment into prison systems is now ready for publication with abstracts accepted by the Five Nations Conference.
- Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre: Audit report is in the final edit stages. Plan to establish an informal Five Nations Health Protection Inequalities Group
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme: Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme: Vaccine equity toolkit launched last week and is now available on website. To be shared with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Euro team for wider dissemination.
- Theory of Change workshop for Health Protection Inequalities Programme colleagues took place in June.

Any Concerns Being Managed

Health Protection Division

- Continued business continuity arrangements due to Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) staffing shortages.
- Ongoing Sexual Health Incident Management Team (IMT).
- Environmental Public Health instability.
- AWARe out-of-hours pressures.

Infection Services Division

- Laboratory Information Management System (LIMs) Implementation – T3 go-live plan rejected in favour of blood sciences going live 6th July, and critical legacy data solution rejected by Directors of Digital (DoDs).
- Infrastructure issues at Singleton (IT switch, autoclave failures).
- Staffing pressures at Aberystwyth requiring support from Singleton.
- Multiple complex HR cases affecting delivery and morale.

Screening Division

- Resource requirements for cervical self-sampling rollout in discussion.
- Breast Test Wales (BTW) mobile units

- BTW assessment concerns in North Wales.
- Issues with screening invitation letter delivery.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Loss of UK Health Security Agency out-of-hours environmental health support creates significant statutory risk.
- Concerns regarding Digital Health Protection (DHP) system suitability.
- Short-notice requests affecting delivery of internal workplans.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Two ongoing Fitness to Practise cases (GMC and HCPC).
- Respect & Resolution grievance case involving specialty registrar.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Lack of Programme Manager for Health Protection Inequalities Programme. Support provided by Project Support Officer from Directorate Operations Team. Potential Public Health student will support for six months.
- No Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme Oversight Team update this month due to competing commitments.
- Limited progress on Delivery Confidence Assessment (DCA) register.
- Resource and affordability challenges within Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme.

Forward Look of Key Activities for Next Month

Health Protection Division

- Publishing two Needlestick and Syringe Programme reports in July (to be confirmed with comms) and WEDINOS annual report at end of August.
- A reactive Men B programme is currently awaiting Welsh Government approval following the recent outbreak in England.
- Actions and risk mitigations ongoing as part of Sexual Health Incident Management Team (IMT)
- Health Protection new automated purchasing process to be rolled out later in June.

Infection Services Division

- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit genomic data upload from University of Georgia to PenGu facility (CryptoCapture project)
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit refining of Multi Locus VNTR analysis (MLVA) Standard Operating Procedures to increase typeability.
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit contributing to the Chief Medical Officer Public Health Water Taskforce led by Sir Chris Whitty, Microbial Risks Subgroup.
- Biomedical sciences day this month, public stands within hospitals.

- Issue of test cost uplifts in line with new Microbiology Safety Cabinet for serology and Blood Culture
- Cross Directorate Transformation work completed ready for Directorate Management Team presentation.
- Applications submitted to Health Education and Improvement Wales for Equivalence funding to commence study in September 26.

Screening Division

- Preparation for end of year review in July.
- Clinical oversight and advisory group being set up.
- Governance and timing of Improvement Plan monitoring to be confirmed for the Bowel Screening Wales, Breast Test Wales, and Diabetic Eye Screening Wales improvement plans.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Participate in the 2026 Wales Civil Contingencies Conference and Capabilities Event, contributing to national resilience and preparedness priorities.
- Attend the Wales Resilience Forum (WRF) with the new First Minister charring, ensuring Public Health Wales is effectively represented at the highest level.
- Prepare to represent Public Health Wales at Exercise Tucana in July 2026, supporting readiness and multi-agency coordination.
- Support the delivery of a Climate Change Workshop, strengthening integration of climate resilience within emergency preparedness activity.

Office of the Medical Director (OMD)

- Continue junior doctor contract and HEIW implementation work in conjunction with POD.
- First Public Health Wales 'Clinical' Governance meeting to be held.
- Focus development of Postgraduate Education e-Centre.
- Review and update of Caldicott Guardian activity.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme (HARP): Aim for MEDUSA project to be complete in June/July 2026.
- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Programme and Public Health Genomics may join Health Protection Inequalities Programme and are considering their workplan.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health and Wellbeing
Executive Lead:	Jim McManus
Reporting Month:	May and June 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	15 July 2026
Board Meeting Date:	30 July 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Health Improvement Division

Tobacco Vaping, Nicotine Prevention Programme

Tobacco and Vapes Act Implementation: Following Royal Assent of the Tobacco and Vapes Act, the Tobacco, Vapes and Nicotine Addiction Programme convened a system-wide workshop with Health Board partners to explore the implications for Wales. The workshop identified opportunities and challenges associated with implementation, including restrictions on tobacco and vape products, future smoke-free and vape-free powers, and retailer licensing schemes. Insights will inform PHW support to Welsh Government and partners as implementation progresses.

Deputy Minister Briefing on Vaping and Children and Young People: Public Health Wales provided a detailed briefing to Welsh Government on vaping among children and young people in response to a request from the Deputy Minister for Public and Preventative Health. The briefing brought together the latest evidence, policy context and PHW activity, highlighting ongoing work across multiple programmes to address vaping-related harms.

Healthy Weight Systems and Pathways Programme

£8million Obesity Prevention Funding: It was announced that Public Health Wales has secured £8 million through the UK-wide Obesity Pathway Innovation Programme (OPIP). The bid, led by Public Health Wales, was developed collaboratively with all Health Boards in Wales and Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW), with support from Life Sciences Hub Wales. The funding will support the development and delivery of a bilingual, digitally enabled obesity pathway, improving access to weight management services, reducing health inequalities, and testing innovative approaches to obesity prevention and treatment across Wales. Work has now commenced to deliver this programme. [Pioneering projects to transform obesity care, backed by £85 million from government and industry - GOV.UK](#)

Out of Home Healthier Food presentations: Presentations have been given at the four nations food and nutrition group and at the Welsh Government Out of Home Food

workstreams to support workshops and discussions in relation to data and options for healthier out of home food.

Physical Activity Programme

Daily Active 8 Domains: Completed five stakeholder discovery workshops to inform the development of the Daily Active 8 Domains digital resource. Insights gathered will be used to shape content across all eight domains, ensuring the resource reflects stakeholder needs and priorities.

Active Mile Initiative: Supported the Public Health Minister and Sport Minister in delivering the 100 Days Promise by developing promotional resources for the Active Mile initiative, including an implementation guide to support delivery in schools.

UK Physical Activity Guidance: Through the UK Four Nations Physical Activity Group (including OHID and Public Health Scotland), contributed to updated Chief Medical Officers' physical activity messaging, reinforcing that even small amounts of physical activity provide meaningful health benefits, with benefits increasing progressively towards the recommended 150 minutes per week.

Mental Wellbeing Programme

Hapus partnership: The Hapus Strategic Partnership continued to strengthen cross-sector collaboration, welcoming the National Forest for Wales and progressing shared work on wellbeing messaging, communication, policy influence and future funding opportunities. Public Health Wales also contributed to the Pan-Wales Health and Employability Forum, identifying opportunities to align mental health, social prescribing and employability agendas.

Storytelling for Health Conference: Delivered with the University of South Wales and Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB, highlighted the role of lived experience in improving health and wellbeing and generated new collaborative opportunities. In addition, nine new wellbeing tools were launched through the Hapus programme and Arts Council of Wales partnership to support public engagement with wellbeing activities.

Wellbeing Tools Launch: Nine new wellbeing tools, developed with artists across Wales through the Hapus programme and Arts Council of Wales collaboration, have been launched to encourage greater engagement with activities that support wellbeing. [Cynefin | Wales Arts Health & Well-being Network](#)

Educational Settings Programme

Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school Scheme (HSPSS) Review: As part of the national review of the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school Scheme, PHW convened a roundtable event with over 50 stakeholders from across the early years sector. Discussions highlighted the importance of a more integrated, sustainable and outcomes-focused approach, with findings informing future options for programme delivery, evaluation and population impact.

Healthy Working Wales

Supporting Young People at Work – Rapid Evidence Review: A rapid evidence review examined the barriers and enablers affecting young people's ability to enter and remain in good quality employment. The review identified a need for coordinated approaches that integrate employment and health support and generated 16 recommendations for employers, policymakers, researchers and Healthy Working Wales.

Financial Wellbeing Webinar: Healthy Working Wales hosted a financial wellbeing webinar with expert speakers from the Money and Pensions Service and Cardiff Credit Union. The session highlighted the importance of financial wellbeing for workforce health, with strong engagement from employers across Wales.

NHS Settings Programme

Exercise Referral Schemes Evidence Review: A rapid evidence summary considered the impact of Exercise Referral Schemes on healthcare utilisation and health outcomes. While evidence on reducing healthcare demand was limited, findings suggested potential benefits for physical activity, quality of life and mental wellbeing. The review will inform ongoing work assessing the social and financial return on investment of the National Exercise Referral Scheme in Wales.

Public Health Social Marketing

Public Health Social Marketing campaigns: were delivered in the period for Help Me Quit, Healthy Weight Healthy You and Hapus. Activity included the second phase of the portion size reduction behaviour change campaign and the continuation of the Break Its Hold smoking cessation activity which led to 852 service referrals for Help Me Quit.

Primary Care Division

Prevention in Health and Care

Disease prevention: CVD Prevention: CVD Prevention Plan: Recommendations for Wales - completed with launch due in July. GMS QI Project Webinar held to over 200 practices across Wales to support delivery of all three GMS QI projects in 26/27. Size of the Prize modelling completed showing the number of heart attacks and strokes saved following year one of the hypertension QIP. CVD prevention presentations to a range of conferences including British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru and Primary Care Cardiovascular Society Wales, and Heart UK.

AWDPP: Version 3 update of AWDPP protocol draft progressed to include GDM pathway based on stakeholder feedback. Further advocacy for AWDPP extension for diabetes audit plus module. Ongoing work with health boards on plans for mainstreaming AWDPP.

Life-course programmes

HWB after Pregnancy: Making the case for HWB after pregnancy slide set drafted to support scoping discussions with stakeholders. Meetings held with colleagues in Welsh Government, Primary Care in Wales and NHS England leads to inform next steps.

MSK Prevention & Improving physical activity: Scoping meeting with 4 Nations colleagues on collective approach to support the incorporation of physical activity into undergraduate curricula for health care professionals. Scoping meetings held with colleagues in England, as well as WIPHAS to consider developing 'Moving Healthcare Professionals Programme' for Wales. Plan developed for new programme combining MSK prevention and improving physical activity. MSK Prevention Steering Group scheduled for July 2026.

Workforce and prevention

Social Prescribing and MECC: Findings of financial wellbeing and social prescribing scoping review considered within PBHC framework and recommendations developed. PHW MECC Web Pages live and re-direct successfully applied from previous National MECC website. Draft SBAR developed on Women's Health and MECC in relation to funding available from WG. Final draft of 'Supporting Health Behaviours' resource for Community Pharmacy completed ahead of publication in August.

Return to work support: Workshop held with the all-Wales AHP Health & Work network to scope approach. Meetings held with UK AHP leaders to understand current thinking and best practice. Meetings planned to scope best practice (in Wales) regarding use of fit notes to deliver person centred return to work support for people following long term sickness.

Prevention-Based Health & Care

Draft PBHC tools shared with a number of colleagues to utilise and to gain feedback regarding utility. Plans developed for publication of tools and PBHC tools used to support the planning and development of the MSK prevention toolkit.

Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme

- 1,473 actions already completed by 139 contractor teams for 2025/2026 to date.
- June [E Bulletin](#) published, including a new case study.
- [Greener Primary Care Wales webpages](#) now transitioned from PC One to PHW corporate webpages.
- Expert Group meeting held 10 June 2026 to review progress to date and inform future developments of the Scheme.
- Continue to work with NHS Wales Shared Services to develop data dashboard for internal reporting requirements.

Inhalers

Final report of the Task and Finish Group due to its completion being drafted and scheduled for to be presented to the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group in September 2027.

Inhaler KPIs to be monitored via the restructured Clinical Services subgroup (name TBC former Approaches to Healthcare Project Board) of the [Health and social care climate emergency national programme](#) board.

Evidence review of the UK of inhaler recycle pilot schemes completed and report awaiting publication on PHW webpages. Plans for peer review journal publication.

Four nations network to continue looking at common metrics and UK approach to next generation propellants being brought to market.

3 abstracts and posters regarding different elements of inhaler work to share the learning submitted to the AWTTC Best Practice Day in July 2026.

Other medicines

Report: Environmentally Sustainable Medicines Management in Wales Stakeholder workshop 17 March 2026 finalised and to be presented and recommendations discussed at AWMSG in July 2026.

Project with PHW AMR team and AWTTC around co-benefits of driving down antimicrobial use in early stages.

Primary Care Model for Wales

Ongoing work to advocate the use of the National Person Experience Survey across the four Independent Contractors. Testing different approaches such as utilising the National Person Experience Questions as part of the Directed Supplementary Service of Complex Multi-Morbidity and Frailty Evaluation.

PCMW Evaluation Task and Finish Group commencing July 2026 to develop a Theory of Change, refresh the PCMW Evaluation plan and develop evaluation components (3-month time scale for work reporting to PCMW workstream).

Planning underway for the fourth cycle of Peer Review (Q3 2026).

Finalising Evaluation report for the Directed Supplementary Service for Complex Multi-morbidity and Frailty.

Primary Care One website

PCONE content has been migrated across to the new PHW website which is now live. Auto re-directs are in place from the decommissioned PCONE to the new website. PCONE content can be found in the Topic section under [Primary Care](#) and within the Tab 'For Partners and Professionals' under [Primary Care One](#).

Development of a Primary and Community Care SharePoint to support the sharing of resources/ learning from cluster working (those specifically developed for stakeholders).

Public Health driven Primary and Community Care system by 2035

The Primary Care Division commissioned The Kings Fund to deliver three Population Health Workshops (24/11/2025, 23/06/2026 and 01/07/2026), which were well attended by a broad range of system partners. The workshops provided an opportunity to showcase innovative examples of population health in practice in Wales, to support spread and scale.

Finalising the analysis of OECD Continuity of Care (CoC) data, which will be shared with CoC working group and the Community by Design Urgent / Same Day Care Pillar.

Analysis of the CoC year one (process) evaluation underway. Including analysis of qualitative data from GMS practices and analysis of the COC QI Posters.

Finalising a suite of Case Studies, showcasing work that delivered 'Care Closer to Home' and evidenced a population health approach in Primary and Community Care. The insight will improve peer to peer learning between Clusters and inform the delivery of the Community by Design (CbD) Transformation Programme.

Progressing a series of rapid evidence reviews to support 'Community by Design/ Care Closer to Home'.

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

Held inaugural Teg I Bawb Advisory group to support implementation and evaluation of the action plan

Worked with PHW corporate to migrate the webpages to PHW webpages before closure of PC One.

Equity focused interventions for reducing inequalities associated with waiting times in the NHS: A Rapid Review of Literature draft report completed.

Continue to support implementation of GMS Inclusion health provision, an example of this is the roll out of the Inclusion Health Capability and Training Framework.

Proposal submitted to establish a Welsh Faculty of Inclusion Health (under the UK Faculty of Homeless and Inclusion Health).

Supported the development of training videos for Population Health Management. Presentations at All Wales Justice and Research conference.

Dental Public Health

New workstreams for the Dental System Reform programme have been agreed by the programme board (Dental Strategic Oversight Group). Dental Public Health team are working with the WG, HBs and others to recruit co-chairs and agree ToR and membership for the workstream.

Engagement with NHSBSA to update the Urgent Patient Questionnaire as part of the PREMs work agreed by the DSOG in May.

Starting to develop social stories for various dental programmes to support with children's understanding of school-based interventions (particularly for neurodivergent children)

A case study has been submitted for the PHW's Annual Quality Statement highlighting the work done by Dental PH team so far. Stakeholder engagements showed that a ministerial direction would be needed to facilitate secondary use of primary care dental data including linking with wider primary care datasets within the DHCW and SAIL.

Oral Health Intelligence

Data cleaning is underway on the clinical data collection forms for the oral health in care homes epidemiological survey. Over 1,210 residents participated across Wales. We have also collected data from a questionnaire from care home managers re oral health and a summary report is being compiled. Planning for the next Training and Calibration event for the 2026/27 survey of 12-year-olds is near completion.

Data was analysed by Columbus Ohaeri, Senior Data Analyst, and a report written on access to NHS 'high-street' practices for different age groups. This found poorer levels of access to both urgent and routine care for those who were 80+ years old, when compared to all other age groups. This has been sent to the Older People's Commissioner in Wales as requested.

We continue to wait on Dental Branch of the Welsh Government re determining the legal ownership (Data Controller) of NHS Business Service Authority dental data (all NHS primary dental care activity in Wales) and about the possibility of 'opt-out' consent for future epidemiological surveys of school children. Similar arrangement is in place in Scotland.

Oral Health Improvement

Dental Policy Lead within the WG presented Designed to Smile (D2S) as an example of an evidence-based prevention programme with an impact within the WG's Policy and Programme Alignment Group (PPAG).

Following dental public health team's request, WG dental policy branch has agreed to seek legal advice for opt out consent arrangement for the Supervised Toothbrushing Programme. Designed to Smile Operational Managers meeting was held on 24th of June.

WIMD 2025 is being used to re-analyse number of eligible settings that should be offered D2S programme by health boards. Initial findings indicate that more settings have become eligible. Extended Duties Dental Nurses (EDDN) Research Project: The research project aims to assess the reliability of Extended Duties Dental Nurses in identifying dental caries in young children. The project will generate evidence to demonstrate the value of an enhanced care pathway from Designed to Smile (D2S) into clinical dental services. Project costs will be funded through external funding secured by Mary Wilson for Public Health Wales. The work is progressing well but will represent a significant programme of activity over the next 12 months. The project is being undertaken in collaboration with: Julie Peconi, Research and

Evaluation Knowledge Directorate and Sarah MacAulay-Nolan, Primary, Community and Dental Services (PCD).

Dental Quality and Safety

Planning for the Annual Quality Assurance Self-Assessment (QAS) launch and Biannual GDS Quality and Safety Forum.

Wider Determinants of Health

Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales

Learning group session on applying systems thinking to developing PSB well-being assessments and identifying priorities for well-being plans.

Design workshop held with PSB representatives on developing a cross PSB learning space as part of national Strengthening PSB 'learning spaces' task and finish group.

Building a Healthier Wales

Reallocation of resource to Child Poverty, HEW/Marmot focussed work.

Continuing to develop detailed Action Plan for meet the recommendations within the Better Join Up Better Outcomes Needs assessment.

Worklessness

Rapid scoping review on Interventions supporting young people with mental, behavioural and neurodevelopmental conditions into work, and their impact on mental health completed.

Successes

Healthy Weight Healthy You: Health Improvement £8Million funding for weight management.

Sustainable Healthcare: Anghard Wooldridge, Senior PH Practitioner won the AWTTC Conference best poster award '*Lessons in Asthma: (A cluster funded community based sustainable healthcare project).*'

CVD Prevention: Promising results from Y1 hypertension QIP reviewed and shared with GMS Quality Committee and partners across Wales: Over 30,000 additional people with blood pressure treated to target, equating to 184 heart attacks prevented, 275 strokes prevented and NHS savings of nearly £7 million.

Dental Public Health

Final paper for the largest UK trial of an oral health intervention in care homes (led by Paul Brocklehurst) has been accepted for publication. Results highlight the importance of a continued programme of prevention (such as the Gwen am Byth programme in Wales, which is overseen by Mary Wilson in the Dental Public Health team). A further paper was published in Gerodontology entitled '*Consideration of Oral Health Within Guidelines and Policy Documents Focused on Nutritional Status and Dietary Intake for Older Adults in Care Homes in the UK*'. Paul Brocklehurst has been appointed as Scientific Advisor for the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry's (BASCD) Dental Epidemiological Programmes, providing representation for Wales across the United Kingdom. He also presented at the annual BASCD conference on epidemiological programmes in Wales.

National Designed to Smile Study Day was successfully held on 9 June 2026. The national event was organised by Mary Wilson, Claire Miles, and supported by Natasha Hill and Elin Jones. A total 120 people from seven health boards attended the event.

Any Concerns being managed:

Health Improvement: Transfer of Healthy Weight Healthy You website included issues with website routing. Options to mitigate future risks are in the process of being developed and agreed.

Primary Care Division

AWDPP – Whilst short term funding for the existing level of delivery has been secured for 2025/26, plans for expansion and sustainable delivery of the programme remain uncertain.

AWDPP – Audit plus availability for Wales is a key risk for AWDPP programme to capture data for monitoring and national reporting.

MECC – Access to analytical support for the MECC Programme remains an issue. This may result in issues and challenges to provide monthly updates of data to the performance management dashboard. In addition, there were plans to further develop the Power BI dashboard by incorporating evaluation data from Civica and integrating Ty Dysgu completion data directly. Without appropriate analytical support, progressing this work may not be feasible. In addition, NWSSP's migration of the Learning @ Wales (L@W) platform and revisions to ESR data have delayed access to completion reports and monthly data. The ESR and L@W reporting date has been revised from the 5th to the 15th of each month, and the MECC team is meeting NWSSP monthly to monitor and resolve issues.

Wider Determinants of Health Unit

PHNC - Continuous delay of timeline for web pages going live – sourcing monthly support from current provider.

IWDOH Priority - Resourcing is an ongoing concern.

Child Poverty /Marmot/HEW - Pressure on resources, making use of resource freed up by end of BAHW but resourcing is still a risk. Assessing priorities to reduce risk of burnout.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Health Improvement Division

Tobacco Vaping Nicotine Addiction Prevention

- Cost of Smoking in Wales: Anticipated publication of the Cost of Smoking in Wales report, providing updated evidence on the health and economic impact of smoking to inform policy and system action.
- Vaping and Smoking Among Children and Young People: Publication of rapid analysis from the 2025 SHRN survey, showing encouraging reductions in both vaping and smoking prevalence among children and young people in Wales.
- Smoking Cessation and Health Inequalities: Publication of a literature review on harm reduction approaches to smoking cessation, supporting evidence-informed action to reduce smoking-related inequalities.

Healthy Weight Systems and Pathways Programme

- Publication of Evidence Map for Healthier Eating with the PHW evidence service
- Representation at the RSPH/NSWA Hydration and Health Roundtable

Social Marketing

- August will see Hapus promotion featuring bi-lingual ambassadors championing key actions to protect and promote mental wellbeing

Primary Care Division Prevention in Health & Care

Disease prevention: CVD Prevention: Publish CVD Prevention Plan: Recommendations for Wales in July. Ensure recommendations are socialised across the CVD prevention system. Develop detailed PHW workplan to support implementation of the CVD Prevention recommendations. Explore proposal for GMS QIP focused on Cholesterol prevention.

AWDPP: Finalise draft of Version 3 update to AWDPP protocol on GDM pathway. Work with DHCW to support progression of AWDPP extension to diabetes audit plus module. Work with WHOCC colleagues on economic evaluation of AWDPP and review conclusions of GMS Short Life Working Group on AWDPP.

Life-course programmes:

HWB after Pregnancy: Progress evaluation and engagement plans for contraception after pregnancy e-learning module. Scope report content to set out the case for strengthening support for women's health and wellbeing after pregnancy within the health and care system in Wales.

MSK Prevention: Meet with 4 nations colleagues to scope development of physical activity in UG curricula. Progress MSK prevention toolkit. Contribute to 4 Nations SBAR paper regarding physical activity in UG curricula.

Workforce and prevention:

Social Prescribing and MECC: Continue to develop Theory of Change for Healthy Conversations. Scope evaluation of 'healthy conversations' in primary care. Progress plan to develop a shared vision for Healthy Conversations. Share stakeholder key themes with MECC network including next steps. Publish 'Supporting Health Behaviours: A Guide for Community Pharmacy'. Meet with internal and external colleagues re: supporting financial wellbeing through health & care.

Return to work support: Develop SBAR to inform next steps regarding the use of fit notes in Wales to aid further discussion with partners.

Prevention-Based Health & Care: Finalise plans for publication of PBHC tools. Work with Community by Design and Welsh Gov colleagues to determine next steps for PBHC subgroup establishment. Meet with Chief Pharmaceutical Officer to develop plans for engagement with community pharmacy on PBHC.

Primary Care Environmental Sustainability

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme: Review actions identified during Expert Group meeting and progress relevant and appropriate developments. Discussions regarding Hapus / GrPC case study project underway. SE Wales GP Trainee teaching session to be held 1 July 2026.

Inhalers: Follow up with SPPC / DPPC to identify named contact and share data. Plans for being 2026/27 developed and shared. Final Task and Finish report to be completed and shared with stakeholders for feedback before being prepared for AWMSG presentation.

Other medicines: Workshop report presented and next steps agreed via AWMSG. Discussions underway with PHW Antimicrobial leads regarding BI project input from our team into

Environmentally Sustainable antimicrobial prescribing. Plenary session at AWTTC Best practice day (July 2026) - Sustainable Medicines Management.

Primary Care Model for Wales Evaluation: Review the current PCMW Evaluation plan and engage with stakeholders (Quarter one) to develop a Theory of Change and determine if / what additional components are required to increase the robustness of the evaluation.

Primary Care One website: Launch the Primary and Community Care SharePoint page/s.

Public Health approach to Primary and Community Care system by 2035: Progress the rapid evidence reviews to support 'Community by Design/ Care Closer to Home' work in progress. Scope out a Health Impact Assessment for Community by Design Transformation programme

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care: Finalise procurement for Faculty (pending approval). Develop plans to launch a new Inclusion Health Community of Practice during Q3. Continue to support implementation of GMS Inclusion health provision. Finalise Teg I Bawb evaluation plan following feedback from Oversight group. Finalise 'Equity focused interventions for reducing inequalities associated with waiting times in the NHS' report.

Dental Public Health: Gwen Am Byth programme report findings will be discussed at the national Implementation Group on 22nd of July and will be shared with the Health Boards, Care Inspectorate Wales, and Welsh Government. Key findings will be published on PHW webpages on 14th of July.

D2S process to collect data from health boards for annual report will go live on 7th of July.

Wider Determinants Unit

Building a Healthier Wales (BAHW) - As it was previously agreed to end the BAHW group, residual work from BAHW and emerging work will be combined under the heading of Child Poverty and BAHW will no longer be used from July onwards.

IMTP/Route map - Anticipated sign off of changes to IMTP milestones and route map.

Marmot/HEW - Marmot learning event for Local Authorities will be held 20th July.

Worklessness of public health concern - Briefing shared and presentation given to Pan Wales Employability and Health Forum on findings from rapid scoping review on Interventions supporting young people with mental, behavioural and neurodevelopmental conditions into work, and their impact on mental health.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Operations and Finance
Executive Lead:	Zoe Pietrzak
Reporting Month:	May and June 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	15 July 2026
Board Meeting Date:	30 July 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Month

Estates and Health & Safety

- Progressed estate planning and procurement activity to support screening services, administrative accommodation and organisational estate requirements.
- Advanced development of cleaning specifications for the PHW mobile screening fleet, administrative estate and screening centres, including engagement with Health Board partners on potential delivery arrangements.
- Commenced redesign and refit work at Matrix House to accommodate Lung Screening Wales, supporting planned implementation and service readiness.
- Progressed delivery planning for the estate's capital programme and developed implementation actions in response to the Government Energy Services estates review.
- Implemented the Computer Aided Facilities Management system to strengthen estate compliance, reactive maintenance and planned maintenance oversight.

Communications

- Led communications activity for high-profile public health issues, including the Hantavirus incident in Wales, Ebola preparedness planning and periods of extreme heat, ensuring clear, timely and coordinated public health messaging across Wales.
- Delivered the national Lower Your Risk campaign to raise awareness of Type 2 diabetes and encourage preventative action through targeted communications and stakeholder engagement.
- Expanded bowel screening communications through lived experience case studies and community partnerships to improve awareness and engagement among underrepresented groups.

- Successfully launched the new Public Health Wales website as part of the Future Web Estate Programme, improving access to trusted health information and enhancing the user experience for the public, staff and partners.
- Progressed planning and delivery of the Public Health Wales Staff Conference, supporting organisational engagement and reinforcing the contribution colleagues make to improving health outcomes across Wales.

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs

- Produced briefings for the Cabinet Minister for Health and Social Care and Deputy Minister for Public and Preventative Health.
- Progressed the IMTP addendum for Welsh Government in response to formal feedback on the Board-approved plan and undertook a baseline review of the Strategic Plan in line with the Public Health Wales Remit Letter 2026/27.
- Completed programme closure activity for the Web Transformation and North Wales Estates programmes and initiated the My Path Cymru programme through Change Board.
- Supported organisational work following the Senedd elections through the Public Health Advocacy Programme and review of the Long-Term Strategy against the new Programme for Government.
- Strengthened programme governance and assurance arrangements through SRO approach development, PMO assessment activity and recruitment to support programme management and corporate analysis capacity.

Finance and Performance

- Submitted the 2025/26 annual accounts to Welsh Government in line with the national deadline. The accounts were unqualified and received no audit recommendations, representing a significant organisational achievement.
- Completed the Grip and Control self-assessment in line with Welsh Government requirements, identifying areas of good practice and areas for improvement to strengthen future controls and assurance.
- Commenced end-of-year directorate reviews as part of the performance management approach, supporting learning from 2025/26 and informing delivery priorities for 2026/27.

Successes

Estates and Health & Safety

- Raised the profile of the Estates, Facilities and Health & Safety Division across the organisation, supporting stronger engagement on estate, facilities and compliance matters.
- Made positive progress with Lung Screening Wales on space planning at Matrix House, supporting accommodation requirements for the new service.

Communications

- Provided an effective communications response to emerging public health incidents and risks, supporting coordinated action with partners and helping maintain public confidence through timely and accurate information.

- Delivered national prevention campaigns that increased awareness of key public health issues and supported behaviour change objectives.
- Successfully launched a modern, accessible and user-centred Public Health Wales website, strengthening digital communications capability and improving access to services and information.
- Continued to strengthen engagement approaches using audience insight, lived experience and community partnerships, helping to reach a broader range of populations across Wales.

Finance and Performance

- Achieved an unqualified 2025/26 set of annual accounts with no audit recommendations, providing strong assurance on financial reporting and control.
- Completed a successful end-of-year review for Strategy, Finance and Performance, identifying achievements, challenges and learning to support performance and delivery during 2026/27.

Any Concerns being managed:

Estates and Health & Safety

- Staff vacancies within Estates, Facilities and Health & Safety are being managed through approved agency backfill and recruitment activity, with posts due to be advertised from w/c 6 July.
- Delays in agreeing CQ2 landlord service charge arrangements remain under active management.

Communications

- Demand for communications support continues to increase across incident response, national campaigns, digital transformation programmes, stakeholder engagement and corporate priorities. Activity is being managed through ongoing prioritisation and resource planning, although capacity pressures remain a key risk.

Finance and Performance

- Sign-off of 2026/27 SLAs missed the Welsh Government deadline of 14 May. Screening agreements remain incomplete and unsigned while additional content and legal advice are awaited.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Estates and Health & Safety

- Issue the proposed cleaning specification for the PHW administrative estate for consultation with key stakeholders.
- Complete the 2026/27 Estates Performance Management System return by the 31 July 2026 reporting deadline.
- Continue delivery of the estates capital programme and progress mechanical, electrical, plumbing and small works tender specifications to support future estates requirements.

- Develop implementation actions in response to the Government Energy Services estates review and support data collection for Welsh Government's Estates Quinquennial Review.

Communications

- Deliver the Public Health Wales Staff Conference and associated engagement activity.
- Continue development of the Public Health Wales web estate and associated digital communications priorities.
- Maintain readiness to respond to emerging public health incidents, media issues and organisational priorities.
- Progress delivery of behaviour change campaigns and strategic communications activity supporting prevention, improvement and organisational objectives.

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs

- Complete and submit the IMTP addendum to Welsh Government in line with formal feedback on the Board-approved plan.
- Complete the Q1 baseline review of the Strategic Plan and implement the programme of work to address agreed actions.
- Refresh the Strategic Plan in line with the IMTP addendum and formally close the Web Transformation and North Wales Estates programmes at Change Board.
- Further develop benefits and business case frameworks, commission SRO essentials training and progress PPM assurance plans.

Finance and Performance

- Commence the 2026/27 forecasting exercise to inform anticipated financial outturn, financial risks and opportunities, including any required mitigating actions.
- Work with colleagues across the organisation to improve SLA and LTA processes around finalising content, sign-off and monitoring arrangements.
- Develop the Grip and Control action plan to address improvement areas identified through the self-assessment and strengthen finance and performance controls.