DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health Protection, Infection and Environment Directorate
Executive Lead:	Andrew Jones
Reporting Month:	November 2026 (retrospective October – forward look November)
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	18 November 2026
Board Meeting Date:	26 November 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Reporting Period

Health Protection Division

- The team has made extensive progress supporting the Sexual Health External Review Panel and continues to onboard panel members while gathering and reviewing documentation.
- Gastrointestinal, Zoonotic and Emerging Infection (GEZI): Support to national outbreaks responses (Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC), Salmonella). Plans to develop Mosquito Cymru including agreement in principle for stakeholders (Bangor University, National Museum of Wales) to start mosquito surveillance in North and South Wales.
- Responded to Hepatitis A cases in Barry, Vale of Glamorgan.

Infection Services Division

- Cervical and Bowel Screening laboratories have transferred into the Infection Division.
- Toxoplasma Reference Unit (TRU) had unplanned absence of acting head of unit, technical and quality aspects covered by operational manager and trainee clinical scientist (additional duties). Consultant Medical Microbiologist (CMM) have been providing treatment advice and authorisation.
- Pathogen Genomics Unit (PenGU): positive progress with Research, Data and Digital (RDD) Directorate to secure capacity to deliver critical cloud-based storage ahead of the December deadline.
- Significant work has taken place to stabilise Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) TrakCare Lab Enterprise (TCLE) implementation and manage the operational effects on workflows and workforce.
- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU) attended the Water Health Partnership for the Annual meeting.
- First Scientist Training Programme (STP) post recruited to in North Wales.

- The service has contributed to the strategic workforce meeting to highlight challenges with work force retention.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Provided organisational accountability submissions, evidencing resilience activity from the last six months and delivery priorities for the next six months.
- Supported progression of Reception Arrangements for Military Personnel (RAMP), homeland defence and major-event preparedness, including planning assumptions for Euro 2028 and the Tour de France.
- Led development and submission of Public Health Wales evidence to Senedd Committee and UK Government calls for evidence on extreme weather, wildfires and flooding.
- Chaired and represented Public Health Wales across key national, National Health Service (NHS) Wales and multi-agency resilience forums, including the Wales Resilience Partnership, Wales Learning and Development Group, Public Health Wales EPRR Group, Four Nations EPRR arrangements and Local Resilience Forum structures.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Launch of Genomics technical group. Medical Research Council (MRC) Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP) Success.
- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP): Lookback exercise on falsified Rabies vaccine has been completed.
- Healthcare Associated Infection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Prescribing Programme (HARP): Supporting Scabies outbreak in Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) and winter planning/NHS Performance and Improvement (NHSPI) work.
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme (HPIP): Quarterly Meeting went ahead on 5th October with good engagement and updates.

Successes

Health Protection Division

- Bloodborne Virus (BBV), Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI), Tuberculosis (TB) and Inequalities: Publication of Diseases of Elimination Dashboard (DOE-D) third release with data up to end of June 2026.
- Produced and shared bilingual videos of how to remain safe and support vulnerable people during the recent heatwaves.
- Supported partners across Wales with the recent wildfires across Wales.
- The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) Conference, hosted by Public Health Wales from 20-22 October 2026, has benefited significantly from the dedication and support of the Business and Operations Team, whose contribution has been instrumental in planning and delivering the event arrangements.

Infection Services Division

- Business Case for North Wales automation progressed to Welsh Government for approval.
- Year to date: 34 Publications within Microbiology/Virology (including collaborations with Health Protection).
- North Wales, 5 Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) Certificate of Achievements awarded and 1 in Southeast (SE) Region.
- SE Region, 1 Specialist Diploma and 1 Master of Science (MSc) awarded.

- Divisional culture advocates group has been set up.
- Cwm Taff pathology staff trained in Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF) procedure to support All Wales approach.
- Chief Executive made a visit to Pathogen Genomics Unit (PenGU).
- Head of Operations chaired International Clinical Microbiology Symposium in Limerick and included presentations from Prof Lewis White and Dr Michael Perry.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Advanced Public Health Wales' Health Inequalities in Emergencies work from evidence to implementation, including organisational action planning and dissemination through the Public Health Wales hosted International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) European workshop.
- Supported delivery of Wales Gold in South Wales, strengthening strategic leadership and preparedness capability.
- Delivered an organisational mass-casualty Lunch and Learn session, clarifying National Health Service (NHS) Wales arrangements, Public Health Wales responsibilities and internal activation requirements.
- Supported Public Health Wales representation at major industrial hazard exercises across North Wales and Dyfed Powys, including Exercise URUS, strengthening relationships with partners and improving understanding of Public Health Wales' role during industrial incidents.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: Ministerial visit took place at Canolfan Iechyd Genomig Cymru (CIGC). First 'new style' severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) monthly report has been released.
- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP): Launch of urgent MenB vaccination campaign for school leavers, seasonal Flu / COVID-19 programme and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) expansion programme.
- Healthcare Associated Infection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Prescribing Programme (HARP): Publication of COVID-19 module 3.
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme (HPIP): Workplan almost complete and now on Microsoft Lists to ease process of providing updates.

Any Concerns Being Managed

Health Protection Division

- Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances (Wedinos): Testing backlog due to lab staff shortages. Working with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CAVUHB) to reduce delays.
- EDGE: Concurrent cloud migration and Digital Health Protection Programme (DHPP)development continues to create capacity pressures, impacting business as usual (BAU) activity (inc. genomics programme).
- Lead Officer Training: Programme agreement review & steering group support required.
- Environmental Public Health (EPH): service instability continues.
- All Wales Acute Response (AWARe): ongoing out of hours pressure.

Infection Services Division

- Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) implementation continues to have a significant impact on staff well-being, multiple sites reporting staff sickness/ stress where LIMS was cited as a causal factor.

- Replacement Autoclave in University Hospital Llandough (UHL) and Singleton.
- Staff shortages are impacting on service delivery.
- Ongoing Human Resources (HR) issues impacting staff teams and services.
- Non scanning of TrakCare Lab Enterprise (TCLE) barcodes on Sysmex analysers interrupting workflow in some sites.
- Bactec FX Instrument communication issues on TCLE Bacteriology Swansea.
- No functioning autoclaves at Singleton or Rhyl (repairs being progressed but held up by slow procurement).
- Workforce planning remains difficult in Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU).

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Digital Health Protection Programme: User acceptance testing readiness, clinical-safety governance, access controls and go-live criteria require continued attention.
- National Health Service Wales EPRR Governance and Implementation: Greater clarity on accountability is required following the revised NHS Wales Leadership Board approval. Issues exposed through process used for implementation of the new EPRR Framework and Standards.
- Capacity, Preparedness and Improvement Activity: Further significant increases in preparedness demands and delivery of learning from incidents, audits and reviews continue to place pressure on specialist EPRR capacity and require ongoing prioritisation of resources and activity.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics: Staff shortages within Pathogen Genomics Unit (PenGU) bioinformatics team.
- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP): Ongoing risk regarding capacity caused by various demands.
- Healthcare Associated Infection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Prescribing Programme (HARP): Staff shortages due to recruitment freeze and unsuccessful budget alignment.
- Health Protection Inequalities Programme (HPIP): Project Support Officer (PSO) providing programme support. Ongoing talks for further programme support.

Forward Look of Key Activities for Next Month

Health Protection Division

- Preparations are underway for the Governance Review audit commenced in September 2026.
- "Teachers Knowledge Bank- Looking After Yourself Immunisations" produced in collaboration with Health Promoting Schools.
- School age catch-up vaccination surveys in progress, results expected in Autumn term.
- Immune Patrol national roll planned.
- Improved collaboration with Prison staff planned to help improve vaccine information available to prison residents and staff.

Infection Services Division

- United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation visits across multiple Microbiology sites throughout October.
- Work with Screening laboratories in preparation for UKAS visits in November.
- Staff attending Spead and Scale academy to progress sustainability initiatives.

- Cryptosporidium Reference Unit (CRU) discussion with Leadership team about Scientist Training Programme (STP) post.
- Awaiting clear procurement path to progress North Wales Automation business case.

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)

- Finalise Health Prepared Wales 2026 programme delivery and speaker coordination ahead of the December conference.
- Finalise National Health Service Wales EPRR Standards products (on behalf of NHS Performance & Improvement) in readiness for launch at the Health Prepared Wales Conference.
- Progress Digital Health Protection user acceptance testing, training preparation and assurance that EPRR requirements, access controls and continuity arrangements are addressed.
- Initiate planning and design of an organisation-wide resilience exercise focused on cyber disruption, digital resilience and business continuity arrangements.
- Review, assess and coordinate Public Health Wales consideration of forthcoming United Kingdom COVID-19 Inquiry reports, including Module 6 (Care Sector) due 20 October 2026, and Module 7 (Test, Trace and Isolate) due 19 November 2026, and identify implications for Public Health Wales preparedness, resilience and response arrangements.

Programme Oversight Team (POT)

- Genomics Partnership Wales (GPW) delivery plan soft launch is due to take place this month. North Wales Genomics Showcase to take place in November.
- Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP): Ongoing work on various programmes: seasonal flu, COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) expansion, and varicella catch-up enablers.
- Healthcare Associated Infection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Prescribing Programme (HARP): World Antimicrobial Awareness Week is 18th to 24th November.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Health and Wellbeing
Executive Lead:	Jim McManus
Reporting Month:	September and October 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	18 November 2026
Board Meeting Date:	26 November 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Reporting Period

Health Improvement Division
Tobacco Control Programme

- Launched new vaping module on Help Me Quit app plus suite of tools and guidance, supported by media coverage and Ministerial statement; policy briefings published summarising evidence on smoke-free and vape-free public places.
- Updated SHRN data showed a continuing reduction in smoking and, for the first time since 2019, a reduction in vaping among young people, with extensive national media coverage. Presented at All Wales Special Care Dentistry Conference on role of dental professionals in prevention and early intervention.

Healthy Weight Systems and Pathways

- MyPath Cymru (OPIP) has progressed from mobilisation into test-and-scale delivery, working with Health Boards to develop an integrated Welsh weight-management pathway connecting digital, clinical and community support. The Programme Board has agreed a pragmatic digital approach, integrated service-design model and evaluation approach covering implementation, effectiveness, equity and value for money.
- Public Health Wales has also continued to contribute to the Welsh Government Out of Home Food working group, progressing work towards recommendations for healthier out-of-home food environments, including public-sector out-of-home food provision.

Early Years and Children's Health

- We have now funded six locally led projects through the Infant Feeding Innovation Fund, enabling local systems to identify and address inequities in infant feeding support, including geographical barriers, unequal access to equipment and gaps in support for babies at greater clinical risk. The projects will deliver practical service

improvements while generating learning about what works locally and what could be adopted more widely across Wales.

Mental Wellbeing Programme

- Final Cynefin learning event delivered on 21 October and learning from across the four events and wider stakeholder engagement being consolidated to provide key policy recommendations for how arts for health and wellbeing can be strengthened in Wales.
- Mid-point Hapus evaluations findings show evidence of collective action by Hapus Strategic Partners including pooled budgets for specific projects, joint development of wellbeing resources and joint funding bids. Public-facing campaign activity shows impact with findings from the last 2 years consistently showing over 40% of those engaging with Hapus took subsequent action for their wellbeing.

Educational Settings

- Clearance received from Public Health and Education Ministers for the new National Standards for Health and Well-being Promoting Schools. Early adopter phase has commenced with 90 schools currently engaged. Curriculum toolkit for Healthy Relationships published.

Physical Activity

- Daily Active digital resource nearing completion. Response to 'Daily Active Commission for Information 2' completed for Welsh Government. Active Mile (Wales) resources developed.

Gambling, Alcohol and Substance Misuse

- The voluntary sector grant programme to reduce gambling harms was launched in partnership with WCVA. The drug and alcohol team established a lived experience panel to continue to advise on the work programme.

Healthy Working Wales

- Admiral became the first organisation in Wales to receive the Healthy Working Wales Leading Employer recognition badge, recognising positive action to improve workplace health and wellbeing. The first peer mentoring cohort has also commenced, supporting employers to share learning and translate good practice into workplace action.
- The programme has strengthened workplace wellbeing through employer engagement, including HWW national webinars and workshops. Launched a 'Ready, Set, Thrive' workshop for 16-24yo who are about to or have just started work, collaborating with DWP and Careers Wales.

NERS

- NERS Uptake Review completed, identifying five recommendations to increase uptake and improve data quality, alongside a new research project with WIPAHS examining inequalities in referrals, uptake, adherence and outcomes.

Social Marketing

- Social marketing activity continued to deliver strong reach and engagement across key Health Improvement programmes in Q2. Healthy Weight Healthy You recorded a 23% year-on-year increase in users and 53% increase in journey completions, despite disruption to paid media, while Help Me Quit generated 4% more service referrals from 24% fewer website users. The Break Its Hold campaign delivered 990 referrals, the strongest-performing autumn campaign burst to date. Hapus also achieved significant population reach through its summer campaign, generating 5.2 million digital impressions and 91,700 website clicks.

- Annual quality and content assurance review processes commenced for HWHY

Primary Care Division
Disease Prevention
AWDPP:

- AWDPP Protocol v3 update finalised following confirmation from NICE of change in guidance to offer Diabetes Prevention provision to all women following GDM. Planned publish date 11.11.26.
- Webinar planned to update Health Care Professionals and wider stakeholders on AWDPP offer for women following GDM ahead of World Diabetes Day 14.11.26.
- Motivational Interviewing Training coordinated for AWDPP delivery staff across Wales.
- Ongoing work with WEAVE team on the economic evaluation, expecting to share findings as a slide deck with stakeholders and to be supported by TDT with national communications.
- Completion of AWDPP timeline 2021-26 to complement Economic Evaluation.

CVD Prevention:

- PHW workplan developed to support implementation of the CVD Prevention recommendations and shared and agreed with partners as a plan on a page.
- Proposal developed for GMS QIP CVD Prevention for People with Elevated Lipids and shared with GMS Quality Committee; proposal to move forward to the contract negotiation committee.
- Set of CVRM (Cardiovascular Renal Metabolic) measures developed with the intention that they are embedded within the GMS Contract Assurance Framework.
- 'Prevention in Primary Care: CVD and CKD presentation delivered at Cardiff and Vale CPET events in September.

Life-course programmes
HWB after Pregnancy:

- Meeting of Health and Wellbeing After Pregnancy Steering Group held, including engagement on proposed holistic model for health and wellbeing after pregnancy
- Supporting Health and Wellbeing After Pregnancy: PATHS model finalised and included in AWDPP GDM Protocol. Model incorporates 5 key components – **Pregnancy** outcome & experience, **Assessing** health & wellbeing needs, providing **Tailored** person-centred support, and considering both **Household** & family context, and **Social** circumstances.
- Communications for World Contraception Day disseminated to promote Contraception After Pregnancy eLearning module.

MSK Prevention & Improving physical activity:

- Multidisciplinary steering group established and met. Agreed key outcomes and areas for the MSK Prevention toolkit, presented update to NHS P&I MSK CRG
- Drafted context and purpose sections and Active and Healthy Living content
- Continued to work with partners on SBAR to make recommendation for a 4 nations approach to improving physical activity content in undergraduate curricula

Workforce and Prevention
Healthy Conversations:

- Healthy Conversations Co-ordinating Group established and first steering group meeting held. Group will provide direction, expertise, and strategic oversight to support the successful utilisation of Healthy Conversations approaches.
- Healthy Conversations team attended Spread and Scale Academy to progress approach to evaluation of Healthy Conversations approaches across Wales.

MECC:

- Women's Health bid submitted to WG (£100k) to enable delivery of educational sessions for health and care staff to support prevention across the life course for women with a focus on MECC, menstrual health and menopause.

Social Prescribing:

- Contributed to UK Financial Wellbeing Strategy Stakeholder Roundtable on Health.
- Input social prescribing perspectives to 'Cynefin - Positioning the Arts as a Frontline public service' engagement event to recommendations for policy implementation.

Allied Health Professionals Prevention & Public Health:

- 1st All-Wales AHP Prevention & Public Health Steering Group held.
- Lead AHPs for 6 HB regions identified to support the prevention and public health agenda along slide 6 key LHB Public Health Team representatives.
- 3rd AHP Work & Health workshops run to support coproduction of the AHP call for action briefing 27.10.2026.
- Presentation delivered to All-Wales Orthoptic Heads of Service on the AHP Prevention & Public Health Programme of work.

Prevention-Based Health and Care

- Piloted PBHC tools to develop the MSK Prevention Toolkit to support implementation of the All-Wales community and primary care integrated musculoskeletal (MSK) service specification.
- Scoping work undertaken to support Chief Pharmaceutical Officer to strengthen prevention within the Pharmacy Contract.

Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme

- There was a cumulative total of 1,773 actions completed as of early October for the 2025/26 cycle to date. This equates to over 6,000 actions since the Scheme first began.
- The 2 year cycle closed October 2026 with the audits and awards to take place during November and December 2026. Initial data anticipates 71 teams will be audited for a bronze, silver or gold award for this cycle alone.
- October E-bulletin published.
- Continue to work with NHS Wales Shared Services to develop data dashboard for internal reporting requirements.

Medicines Management

- *Decarbonisation - Inhaler use and disposal Task and Finish Group 2022-2026. Final report. August 2026* presented to and received by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group in September 2026.
- Supported / co-hosted the PHW Anti-microbial Stewardship Forum, linking it to our environmentally sustainable medicines management agenda.

Community by Design

Community by Design (CbD) is being supported through two routes:

- Consultant Public Health support to the Chief Medical Officer, which covers three areas of work:

- Collation of the work of the three transformational shifts and stakeholder feedback to develop the CbD Model. Finale draft to be shared with Programme Board 13/11/26.
- Provide public health expertise to the development of the CbD Architecture, leading the integration of learning from the current Welsh system, alongside national and international evidence. Leading peer engagement with various professional and peer groups, developing the long list of options and supporting the forthcoming Options Appraisal process.
- Lead the development of the Community by Design Metrics. Pulled together and Chair a small advisory group to develop the guiding principles, limitations and Domains of outcomes.

- Application of the evidence from the Public Health approach to Primary and Community Care system by 2035 to CbD. Including:
  - Using the 2035 evidence base to inform the Model and Architecture work and the topic specific areas – Urgent and same day care and long term-conditions workstreams.
  - Collaborative work with the PHW Evidence Team to review the literature on Shifting management of chronic conditions from secondary care to community care, to develop an Evidence Map & Summary.
  - Leading a Health Equality Impact Assessment on the Community by Design Model (scheduled for 26/11/2026).

Primary Care Model for Wales

A decision has been made with system leads to pause a 'forward looking PCMW Evaluation', due to system changes and the focus on Community by Design. This includes the decision to stop Peer review. Therefore, work on the Theory of Change has stopped and the work of the PCD Evaluation team is refocusing on developing an End Point Evaluation to inform implementation of Community by Design.

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

- Plans progressing to host the Health Inclusion Summit on the 4th February, 2027.
- October Newsletter developed and shared.
- Continue to support implementation of GMS Inclusion health provision through regular engagement and support with services.

Dental Public Health

- Biannual multistakeholder General Dental Services (GDS) Quality and Safety Forum meeting held on 3rd of September. 31 people representing different teams within the WG, Health Boards, HEIW, NHSBSA, HIW, BDA attended to update each other and discuss different quality challenges esp. in relation to the new dental contract in Wales.
- Preparation for the launch of annual Quality Assurance Self-Assessment (QAS) in November included collecting feedback and updating the questionnaires accordingly.
- Provided dental public health input, and engagement and programme management support to the Dental Reform Programme to restart refreshed workstream meetings during September and October.
- Worked with the WG and NHSBSA and dental reform workstreams to finalise the Patient experience questionnaires (PREMs) for urgent dental care and routine dental care. They will be implemented over the next two quarters and beyond.

- Participated in the workshop on the revised GDC Professionalism Framework hosted by the HEIW. Engagement with the GDC (UK) representatives was fruitful to highlight to the professional regulator the differences between the UK nations in terms what Quality Assurances are in place including differences between NHS dentistry and Private dental practice.
- Dental Public Health and WG Dental Policy branch (including Chief Dental Officer) meeting took place on 6th of October to discuss opportunities and challenges in relation to data linkages, linking dental reform to Community by Design programme and older people's oral health including challenges of improving oral care in care homes.

Oral Health Improvement:

- Led the DETECT research project: protocol, DPA, DPIA, participant documentation, training materials, recruitment strategy, submitted IRAS application and defended the project at HRA REC committee.
- Completed the Designed to Smile annual monitoring process and reports.

Wider Determinants of Health

Health Equity Wales/Marmot Nation - Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) completed and presented to Marmot Delivery Board. Comments provided to WG Health Equity Wales 2-year work plan to ensure alignment with feedback from the LNA.

Public Health Network Cymru has launched its health inequalities series with two webinars delivered in collaboration between PHW, Welsh Government and the Institute for Health Equity - this is supporting recommendations from the Health Equity Wales Learning Needs Assessment. Case studies have been captured to show the positive impact of the Network.

Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales Programme - After a successful final learning group event, the programme is focussing on evaluation and sharing the learning, preparing for a contribution story workshop and a wider learning event. The team is now finalising programme outputs (including a decision aid tool) which will help PSBs continue using systems thinking

Worklessness of Public health Concern - Theory-of-Change workshop facilitated by Innovation and Improvement Hub undertaken with Public Health Wales Worklessness of Public Health Concern leads to identify PHW contribution and impact. Surveillance measures identified as part of Public Health Wales measurement system work.

Successes

Help Me Quit vaping support successfully launched, with strong media coverage

Ministerial clearance secured from Public Health and Education Ministers for the new National Standards for Health and Well-being Promoting Schools, enabling implementation to progress.

Voluntary sector grant programme to reduce gambling harms launched in partnership with WCVA, marking an important milestone in developing the national approach to gambling harm prevention.

Wider Determinants of Health Unit
Worklessness of Public Health Concern – Proposal for deep dive on NEETs and employment and health pathways in Blaenau Gwent agreed with Pan Wales Health and Employability Group. To achieve this we led a design workshop with Department of Work and Pensions and Welsh Government, prioritised where greatest impact can be had, developed a proposal and brough to forum where it was agreed.

Primary Care Division
- Finalised and published report on Paediatric Referrals for the Management of Tooth Decay in Children for 2026.
- Finalised analysis and published infographic on Mouth Cancer for 2026.
- Finalised analysis and published report on Antimicrobial Use in Primary Care for 2026.Paper published (McMullan J, Watson S, Brocklehurst PR, Tsakos G et al. Views and perceptions of oral health and associated care in dependent older adults: semi structured interviews with a range of stakeholders. Journal of Dentistry (2026) doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdent.2026.107131)
- Launched Community of Practice and Advocacy for Inclusion Health on 14th October. Over 70 stakeholders from across the system attended which was hosted by Richard Desir, Nursing Officer, Welsh Government.

Any Concerns being managed:

Health and Wellbeing
- Website migration and development: Ongoing post-migration issues continue to affect delivery of planned website improvements and new functionality, with no clear delivery route currently confirmed for a number of requirements. This includes critical functionality supporting key programmes, including implementation of the new National Standards for Health and Well-being Promoting Schools. Alternative commissioning and mitigation options are being explored, and an SBAR is being developed to set out the risks and options, including potential temporary use of previous platforms if delays continue.
- Grant funding- A number of divisional posts are grant funded. Late confirmation of future funding creates risks to staff retention, workforce planning and continuity of delivery. This is being actively monitored and managed to minimise disruption to priority programmes.
- Funding has not kept pace with rising costs across a number of areas, creating increasing pressure on both staffing and the resources available for programme delivery, including media for social marketing activity. This may affect the scale and reach of planned activity and is being actively managed through prioritisation of available resources.

Wider Determinants of Health Unit
Website migration has led to reduced functionality for PHNC members and users, affecting sign up and participation to events, working with team to address this.
Oral Health Intelligence - Dental Branch argue that Ministerial Direction for SAIL data linkage is not necessary, despite DHCW (who would act as the Data Processor) stating that this is required (without which, they will not undertake any action). Awaiting

formal response from Dental Branch in order to move forward. Uncertainty in Dental Branch over who is the Data Controller for NHS dental activity data.

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) - Access to analytical support to provide monthly updates of data to the performance management dashboard remains an issue. Plans to further develop the Power BI dashboard to incorporate evaluation data from Civica and integrate Ty Dysgu completion data not feasible without analytical support. Power BI training session was provided for PCD colleagues on 28.10.26 which was helpful but will not resolve the current issues and challenges which require data analyst support.

AWDPP - Longterm AWDPP funding and availability of data on the programme's uptake and impacts remain unresolved

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Health Improvement

Tobacco Control

- Preparations will continue for forthcoming tobacco control and smoking cessation activity, including implementation of the Tobacco and Vapes Act and development of the Help Me Quit offer.

Healthy Weight Systems and Pathways

- MyPath Cymru/OPIP will progress into test-and-scale delivery, working with Health Boards to develop an integrated weight-management pathway connecting digital, clinical and community support.
- Work with the Welsh Government Out of Home Food Working Group will continue, with a view to finalising recommendations for healthier out-of-home food environments, including public-sector food provision.

Early Years and Children's Health

- Continue delivery and learning from the six locally led projects funded through the Infant Feeding Innovation Fund, identifying opportunities to address inequalities in infant feeding support and share learning across Wales.

Mental and Social Wellbeing

- Building on initial engagement with nursing representatives and support from the Chief Nursing Officer, proposals to embed wellbeing assessment within nursing practice will be developed further as part of planning for 2027/28.
- Learning from the four Cynefin events will be consolidated with partners to co-develop policy recommendations on strengthening the contribution of arts and creativity to health and wellbeing in Wales.

Educational Settings

- Following Ministerial clearance, implementation of the new National Standards for Health and Well-being Promoting Schools will continue through the early adopter phase, with 90 schools currently engaged.

Physical Activity

- Development of the Daily Active digital resource and Active Mile Wales resources will continue, alongside engagement with Welsh Government on the future approach.

Gambling, Alcohol and Substance Misuse

- Following launch of the voluntary sector grant programme with WCVA, work will progress to support implementation of activity to prevent and reduce gambling harms.
- The lived experience panel will continue to inform development of the drug and alcohol work programme.

Healthy Working Wales

- Development of the Healthy Working Wales Performance and Monitoring Dashboard will continue to strengthen programme monitoring and reporting.
- Further delivery of Ready, Set, Thrive will support young people aged 16–24 who are preparing to enter or have recently entered employment.

NERS

- Recommendations from the NERS Uptake Review will inform improvement activity to increase uptake and strengthen data quality.
- Research with WIPAHS will continue to examine inequalities in NERS referrals, uptake, adherence and outcomes.

Social Marketing

- In November, development of new creative assets for the successful Break Its Hold smoking cessation campaign will continue, including filming for YouTube and Amazon Prime content featuring a priority audience segment identified through insight.
- Help Me Quit campaign activity will launch from Boxing Day, timed to coincide with a period when motivation to quit is particularly high.
- Planning is underway for the Q4 Healthy Weight Healthy You campaign. Following the media supplier entering administration, Procurement advice has been sought and alternative arrangements are being developed to maintain delivery of planned objectives and financial commitments.

Primary Care Prevention

Prevention in Health and Care

Disease prevention

AWDPP:

- Webinar-Preventing Type 2 Diabetes following Gestational Diabetes (GDM) taking place 12th Nov.
- AWDPP updated protocol V3 to be published & shared with Welsh Government 11th Nov.
- AWDPP Economic Evaluation findings due to be available 9th Nov.
- MI training sessions taking place 3rd & 9th Nov; EMIS updated template rollout planned mid-Nov.

CVD Prevention

- Facilitate discussions re CVD prevention at Stroke Senedd event on 3rd Nov.
- Commence development of large-scale, long-term communications plan for CVD Prevention with key partners at the CVD Prevention Steering Group in December.
- GMS Cholesterol QIP has been included in contract negotiations. Rule sets, codes and rationales for each option will need to be developed if agreed.

Life-Course Programmes

HWB after Pregnancy:

- Presentation of the PATHS model to be included in webinar to launch AWDPP GDM Protocol.
- Design work on visual to support PATHS model to be commenced.
- Activities to gather insights of women on HWB After Pregnancy to be undertaken to inform 'Making the Case' report.
- Six-month monitoring report for Contraception After Pregnancy eLearning module to be produced.

MSK Prevention & Improving physical activity:

- Full draft of MSK Prevention Toolkit to be completed prior to Christmas including: Work & Health, Women's Health, Deconditioning and falls prevention, and Living well with an MSK condition.
- Draft to be circulated to steering group for feedback and comment.

Workforce and Prevention

Healthy Conversations:

- Healthy Conversations Co-ordinating group workshop 26.11.26 to inform development of healthy conversations definition, principles and vision.

Making Every Contact Count (MECC)

- Deliver and co-present findings on MECC Barriers & Facilitators and logic model mapping to share further learning with National MECC working group in partnership with the Behavioural Science Unit.

Social Prescribing:

- Support QA process for resources to be included in Social Prescribing Skills and Knowledge online platform.
- Further input to development of UK Financial Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan for Wales.

Allied Health Professionals Prevention & Public Health:

- 4th AHP Health & Work workshop planned December.
- UK Allied Health Professional Public Health Strategy Board 25th Nov.
- Work with Greener Primary Care programme to scope alignment to support AHP working across the system.

Prevention-Based Health & Care

- Work with colleagues in WG Pharmacy team on development of approach to prevention in community pharmacy through establishing a steering group to support the development of this work.
- Input into Community by Design to inform prevention offer, PHM, prevention standards and overarching approach.

Greener Primary Care Framework and Award Scheme

- Publish new case study on the website, finalise audits and award winners, finalise procurement for new cycle, update Framework and all resources; and develop plans for re-launch in early 2027.

Community by Design

- Use the peer engagement insight to finalise the CbD Options and engage with a range of stakeholders to complete the Options Appraisal.
- Facilitate an All-Wales Peer Group session on CbD Model, Architecture and Options Appraisal.
- Finalise the Guiding principles for the CbD Metrics and establish a working group to develop the Metrics.

- Undertake the HEqIA and publish the findings, using the findings to inform the CbD Delivery Plan and Regional implementation.

Reducing Health Inequalities through Primary Care

- Teg I Bawb Evaluation plan to be presented to the DsPH as part of the work to establish robust monitoring of the action plan.
- Improving Continuity of Healthcare for People in Contact with the Justice System in Wales' call to action report to be discussed with DsPH.

Dental Public Health

Publication of the Designed to Smile Annual Monitoring Report 2025/26 in November.

Wider Determinants Unit

Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales - A contribution analysis workshop will take place in November with wider stakeholders and the evaluation report will be finalised.

Public Health Network Cymru - As part of the Health Inequalities series, upcoming webinars include Nature for Health Equity and Bridging Public Health and Environmental Health. An additional non-related webinar will be Public Health Wales's International Health Forum. Impact work being developed.

Coordinated Resources - User feedback from PSB and local authorities will be sought to identify improvements to topic pages and an improvement plan will be developed ensuring alignment with PHW online resources for Health Equity Wales / Marmot initiative.

Worklessness of Public Health Concern - Project plan and commence insights and intelligence deep dive on youth NEET in Blaenau Gwent with Pan Wales Employability and Health Forum.

Complete Theory of Change and Impact Framework and update Worklessness of Public Health Concern workplan following review and ensuring alignment with Programme for Government priorities.

Knowledge articles completed on worklessness of public health concern to inform local and national government decisions on worklessness and health as part of wider determinants co-ordinated resource offer.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Policy and International Health
Executive Lead:	Sumina Azam
Reporting Month:	Sept 2026 to Dec 2026 (M06-M09)
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	18 November 2026
Board Meeting Date:	26 November 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Reporting Period

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

Evaluation of Public Health Advocacy Programme (PHAP):

Evaluation of the PHAP has assessed the impact of the 'Five Policy Priorities' using the Capture Impact evaluation framework. The review assessed how Public Health Wales has influenced change and indicates positive impact across the contribution pathway, demonstrating how advocacy has engaged stakeholders, shaped understanding and supported action aligned with public health priorities.

Exploring Impact and Future Opportunities for Healthy Weight and Out-of-Home Food Environments in Wales - Time To Talk Public Health (TTPH):

Findings from the June 2026 TTPH survey provided evidence of strong public support for nutritional information and healthier food environments, strengthening the case for action on out-of-home food environments in Wales. The findings are being used to inform policy and practice, support stakeholder engagement, and shape future work, while establishing a baseline for monitoring changes in public attitudes and supporting evidence-informed decision-making over time.

Money and Pensions Service health roundtable (financial wellbeing):

The roundtable strengthened collaboration between health and partner organisations to support delivery of the Financial Wellbeing Delivery Plan for Wales. Partners identified opportunities to embed financial wellbeing into health pathways, helping to improve support for people experiencing financial insecurity and reduce the associated impacts on health and wellbeing.

Building Health into Decisions: Health Impact Assessment (HIA):

The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) continues to deliver a national training and support programme to help public bodies prepare for implementation of the Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2025. Through a combination of eLearning, virtual workshops, face-to-face training and bespoke sessions with organisations such as the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Welsh Government, WHIASU is supporting public bodies and other organisations across Wales to understand and apply the new statutory requirements.

The programme is complemented by national webinars and support sessions delivered in partnership with others including the Public Health Network Cymru. By the end of 2026, more than 500 practitioners and decision makers will have received training and support.

The team shared learning with international partners including delivery of an interactive HIA workshop at the IANPHI European annual meeting and a seminar at the Health and Justice conference discussing the potential impacts of the Sentencing Act (2026) on the provision of health care in Wales alongside health protection colleagues.

Child Poverty Week:

As part of Challenge Poverty Week 2026, Public Health Wales joined public health organisations across the UK and Ireland in a shared commitment to evidence-based action. This collaboration increased visibility of the health impacts of poverty and supported evidence-informed approaches to improving outcomes for children and families.

Promoting healthy planning and place-based approaches.

WHIASU delivered a keynote presentation in a European webinar organised by the University of Aveiro, Portugal, on experience of HIA in local planning policy and creating healthy places and spaces. The Unit also coordinated our organisational response to the new Welsh Government National Development Framework consultation; published a HIA Guide for Developments in Wales; facilitated a HIA participatory stakeholder workshop for Pembrokeshire National Park for their Local Development Plan; and delivered health and planning training to elected members at Pembrokeshire County Council. The latter has led to policies being changed to increase visibility of health and equity.

2 – Promoting mental and social well-being

Words Matter House of Commons event: Impact and prevention of childhood verbal abuse by adults in education:

Karen Hughes participated in a panel discussion at the House of Commons exploring why preventing childhood verbal abuse in education must become a central part of the Government's education and safeguarding strategy. Run by Words Matter, the discussion was chaired by Lord Jim Knight and sponsored by Jess Asato MP, and brought together leaders in education, research and safeguarding to present new

findings on teacher–student communication, examine the latest evidence on the lasting impact of verbal abuse, and hear testimony from a young person with lived experience.

Safety 2026: Later life adversity study presentation:

Kat Ford (Bangor University, Public Health Collaborating Unit) presented findings from our report *Abuse and other adversities in community-dwelling older adults in Wales: associations with health and well-being* at the Safety 2026 conference. Safety 2026 was the 16th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, co-hosted by the World Health Organization. The event explored state-of-the-art evidence for injury risks and prevention interventions, and the social, economic, and political drivers that impede the uptake of effective strategies. The conference signalled a call to action to put safety and public health at the forefront of policy considerations.

Royal Society of Public Health Roundtable on Healthy Places

Lara Snowdon, Programme Lead for the Violence Prevention Team participated in a roundtable organised by the Royal Society for Public Health in the Houses of Parliament. Lara drew upon the work of the team in establishing a public health approach to violence prevention in Wales and set out three asks of government rooted in her research on the implementation gap: to prioritise primary prevention; to fund a whole system approach; and make sure it is politically durable. The event was attended by officials from UK and Welsh Government, and further information has been requested from both to support policy development.

5 – Delivering excellent Public Health Services

Economic and social value of immunisation review published

As part of a programme funded by the Pan American Health Organisation, the Well-being Economics and Value (WEAVE) team published a scoping review examining how the value of vaccination is captured in economic evaluations (www.sciencedirect.com). The research found that broader social, economic and life-course impacts are incorporated less frequently than direct healthcare costs and health outcomes. The review highlights the need to capture the full contribution of vaccination programmes beyond traditional health outcomes. Integrating broader social value into economic evaluations can strengthen evidence base to better inform policy and financing decisions to support sustained immunisation efforts.

6 – Tackling the public health effects of climate change

The Health and Sustainability Hub held a workshop to review climate change future priorities and align the programme with the emerging Programme for Government. Revised strategic objectives and future IMTP milestones are now being developed.

At the request of Welsh Government, we have conducted a rapid review of the international evidence relating to adapting health systems to extreme heat. We will be taking the learning from this work to develop climate adaptation plans for the community.

Activity has also focused on building organisational capability and understanding of climate risks, with a pilot phase of the Climate Smart Education Framework

implemented recently with feedback being incorporated ahead of organisation-wide rollout later this year. In addition, over 650 staff responded to a heatwave survey undertaken during the summer about their experience of the summer heatwaves. The findings are being used to inform future adaptation planning, business continuity arrangements and resilience measures across Public Health Wales.

Consultation responses have been submitted to a number of national reviews and inquiries relating to climate change, adaptation and environmental sustainability, helping to ensure that public health considerations are reflected in policy development.

Enabling the successful delivery of our strategy

NHS Wales International Health Activity Group - Oct 2026:

The International Health Coordination Centre (IHCC) International Health Activity Group quarterly meeting is a collaborative network of Welsh international health professionals and partners. The meeting facilitated a discussion on Wales focus for international health post-election, identifying international strategic partners and priorities for international health. This was complemented by the publication of the quarterly International Health Newsletter a key activity of our International Health Strategy.

International Health Insights (Horizon Scanning) - Prevention spend and investment:

We published new international insights on approaches to measuring and growing investment in prevention, developed in collaboration with Welsh Government and the future Generations Commissioner for Wales. Drawing on learning from Germany, Estonia, Finland and South Korea, the work identifies practical approaches to protecting and sustaining prevention investment, including long-term funding mechanisms, stronger measurement and cross-sector collaboration, providing useful evidence to inform prevention and investment discussions in Wales: International Health Insights Approaches to Measuring and Growing Prevention Spend and Investment

Identify the needs and readiness of system leaders in enabling the routine use of a behavioural science:

This mixed-methods study explored how leaders across the Welsh health and public health system advocate for and enable behavioural science. While leaders were highly motivated and recognised its value, findings show many wanted more capability, organisational support and resource to develop routine application. The recommendations provide an evidence-informed roadmap to strengthen leadership, organisational readiness and the systematic use of behavioural science across Wales.

Behavioural science workshop for Health and Care Research Wales:

The Behavioural Science Unit developed and facilitated a full-day workshop for the Communications, Engagement and Involvement teams in Health and Care Research Wales. Applied behavioural science skills and confidence were developed and participants identified practical opportunities for application and reported increased confidence and commitment to embedding behavioural science within routine

practice. Feedback showed strong confidence in the potential for behavioural science to enhance the effectiveness, reach and impact of team activities.

Local pilot of the Behaviourally Informed Communications Initiative (BICI)

The BICI pilot delivery commenced with Cardiff and Vale UHB and Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB – bringing together service leads from across their organisations to optimise direct-patient communications – including areas as diverse as medicines management, paediatric diabetes, chronic disease management and emergency preparedness. Through the pilot, we are offering light-touch support for the development and delivery of locally-led versions of the BICI programme to scale-up success.

Making the Invisible Visible: Measuring Public and Social Value of Prevention

The Well-being Economics and Value (WEAVE) team delivered two interactive workshops on *Making the Invisible Visible: Measuring Public and Social Value of Prevention* at the Welsh Public Health Conference in Cardiff. Attendees explored how the wider social value of prevention can be measured and captured. Using maternal influenza vaccination as a case study, participants considered the perspectives of policymakers, healthcare professionals, and pregnant women to identify the outcomes, barriers and benefits that matter most to different stakeholders. The sessions gathered more than 50 participants and generated strong engagement and positive feedback, with participants expressing interest in applying social value approaches and seeking further advice on Social Return on Investment.

IANPHI sessions on Policy and Prevention and Strategic Partnership for Securing Collective Impact: Towards Well-being, Prevention and Equity

We organised two sessions at the IANPHI European Annual Meeting, 20-22 October. An interactive workshop of Policy and Prevention; and a high-level Panel on Strategic Partnerships. The panel included keynotes from Chris Brown, Head of the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development, Venice, Italy; Carrie Exton, Deputy Director of OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE); Caroline Costongs, Director of EuroHealthNet; Lisa Wise, Deputy Director for Public Health, Welsh Government; and Marie Brousseau-Navarro, Deputy Future Generations Commissioner and Director for Health. It explored how the European network can strengthen collaboration, capacities and resources towards building Well-being Economies for healthy and prosperous lives for all.

Successes

- Ahead of the 2nd Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, Lara Snowdon from the Violence Prevention Team led a joint webinar with the WHO exploring a new series of case studies examining the mechanisms that drive population-level violence prevention. Case studies featured insights from Anguilla, Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, Brazil, Kenya, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, and Wales. The webinar shared key findings from across the series, followed by a panel discussion with case study co-authors on what has enabled progress in their contexts and what other countries might take from their experience. Over 480 people signed up, and the case studies form the

key resources available for the Global Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children, hosted by the Government of the Philippines, in partnership with WHO and UNICEF, in November 2026. The webinar and case studies can be viewed here: Resources – Every Child Protected

- WHO Europe sent a letter of thanks to Public Health Wales for "enabling advances in the generation and application of behavioural and cultural insights to strengthen public health policy and practice across the WHO European Region". This followed our work to support development of 'status and update' reporting and a policy brief entitled "Increasing Cancer Screening Uptake: Evidence and Considerations from the Behavioural Sciences".

Any Concerns being managed:

WHIASU are receiving a high level of requests for HIA training and capacity building sessions including and capacity in the team is stretched. We are managing this demand by prioritising all requests.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

1 - Influencing the wider determinants of health

- Launch of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Regulations e-learning course for public bodies.
- Participatory HIA workshop with Community by Design.
- Progressing the Healthy High Streets programme.
- Publication of international child poverty country profiles to inform policy and practice in Wales.
- Stakeholder event on housing and child poverty to identify evidence-informed actions and strengthen cross-sector collaboration.

2 - Promoting mental and social well-being

- Contributing evidence and expertise to the development of WHO guidelines on loneliness and social isolation.
- Presentation at the Stine Sofie Foundation Conference on preventing violence against children.
- Trauma-Informed digital stories event with senior stakeholder panel to show impact of the Framework so far and launch the Framework Review.

6 - Tackling the public health effects of climate change

- Green Advocates Network session focused on flooding and health.
- Public Health Network Cymru webinar exploring biodiversity, nature and health inequalities (12 November).
- Launch of Climate Change Risk Assessment briefing with Welsh Government (23 November).

7 - Enabling the Successful Delivery of Our Strategy

- Publication of research on public experiences of bystander intervention in violence prevention.
- Publication of research on social isolation and wellbeing in Wales.
- Behavioural science support for the Cervical Screening Wales self-sampling pilot rollout.
- Publication of international health horizon scanning report on the returns of international health partnerships.
- Publication of International Health Newsletter (Issue 12).
- International Public Health Forum (November 2026).
- Publication of international health horizon scanning report on Arts & Health.
- Behavioural Science Community for Wales Annual Conference 2026.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	People & OD
Executive Lead:	Neil Lewis
Reporting Month:	September and October 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	18 November 2026
Board Meeting Date:	26 November 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Reporting Period

- The NHS Staff Survey went live on 05 October 2026 and recently delivered our 'halfway' news story. Survey is due to close on 30 November 2026.
- Delivered the first session on Bullying and Harassment working with an external provider. This is designed for parents and carers to coincide with school's term starting in September.
- Marked World Mental Health Day focusing on Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change.
- Two, line management workshops have been delivered with 1 non line manager workshop coinciding with World Mental Health Day
- Wellbeing Champions have come together with a primary focus on reflection and shared learning aiming to consolidate everything that has happened over the last 6 months and consider what next.
- Both the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report and our More Than Just Words Annual Update for 2025 – 2026 were published in September on our Welsh language webpage: Y Gymraeg - Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru / Welsh Language - Public Health Wales with copies forwarded to the Welsh Language Commissioner and Welsh Government colleagues
- Members of the Screening Division and Welsh Language Team attended the Health Forum meeting on 15 October to discuss progress in meeting our Clinical Consultation Plan: Welsh-Language-Clinical-Consultation-Plan-September-2023.pdf
- New cohort of public health practitioners accepted onto the scheme to be supported to complete their UKPHR Practitioner Registration.
- PHW Leadership and Management Academy – Cohort 10 commenced in North Wales, Deep Dive 9 (for all alumni) titled Working on the gambling levy as a

case study of experimentation, innovation and service design and nomination process opened for cohorts 11 and 12.

- Policy review workshops took place during September 2026 to review and refine key workforce policies and guidance. These were undertaken in partnership with colleagues and Trade Unions, supporting co-production and ensuring policies remain aligned with legislation, best practice and organisational culture. Areas under review include Agile Working, Employing Ex-offenders and People with a Criminal Record, Death in Service, Learning and Development, and the Mobilisation Procedure for enhanced and major incident response.
- People Manager Essentials Deep Dive with Leadership Team took place 8 October resulting in recommendations back to BET.
- Leadership Community of Practice event on Psychological Safety took place on 15 October 2026.
- Key campaigns were marked during September and October which included East and Southeast Asian Month, World Suicide Prevention Day, Black History Month, Baby Loss Awareness Week, Diwali, Menopause Awareness Day, ADHD Awareness Month and Diwrnod Shw'mae.
- We held a Women's Network and WeCare Network meeting and a Parenting Plus (ND), Menopause and Moon Cafe meeting.
- Speaker sessions included PHW's Kristian James on his arctic journey, St Fagans on developing an LGBTQ+ History Collection, Ffynhonnell Womens Wellspring project - online light and sound meditation, ADHD Awareness Month by National Neurodivergence Team and the S4C spoke about the importance of the Welsh language for Diwrnod Shw'mae.
- We also celebrated the Enfys Networks 10th Birthday with rainbow merch and a meeting to recognise 10 years of progress.
- People Portal (ESR Replacement): Public Health Wales established a cross-organisational working group on 8 September and continued engagement with the national programme during October. Early readiness activity is focused on workforce data quality, understanding organisational systems and processes, and preparing colleagues for future change.
- In October, a series of staff focus groups were held to gather valuable insights into our recruitment practices, which will inform the Inclusive Recruitment Review and help identify opportunities to strengthen inclusion.
- Further colleagues have been trained to participate as diverse recruitment panel members, broadening the range of perspectives represented in selection decisions and supporting fair and inclusive recruitment.

Successes

- People and OD worked in partnership with Nursing and Quality colleagues and our Occupational Health providers to support the launch of the staff flu vaccination campaign. This joint working enabled a coordinated approach to the campaign's launch, with a clear focus on supporting staff health and wellbeing through the winter period.

Any Concerns being managed:

Forward Look of key activities for November

- Leading in a Bilingual Country: On 5 November, Welsh Government will hold a Leading in a Bilingual Country taster session for 20 of our leaders including our Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Screening Programme leads and the Chair of our Welsh Language network, Ymlaen.
- Standard 110: On 12 November, Efa Gruffudd jones, Welsh Language Commissioner, will meet with Tracey Cooper to discuss our progress with meeting the targets within our Clinical Consultation Plan.
- Welsh Language Reporting: We are currently working on completing our annual self-assessment questionnaire submission from the Welsh Language Commissioner's office. The questionnaire concentrates on a selection of the Welsh Language Standards only and covers the same areas as last year's questionnaire, to allow the Commissioner to compare and monitor improvements in compliance, where they exist. The deadline for submitting the self-assessment questionnaire is early January 2027.
- New Colleague Networking Event on 25 November 2026.
- Job family approach Deep Dive with Leadership Team on 3 November 2026.
- Leadership Team deep dive into Job Families 3 November.
- Nomination window for PHW Leadership and Management Academy cohorts 11 and 12 closes on 22 November 2026.
- PHW Leadership and Management Academy Deep Dive (for all alumni) on Climate action as a leadership challenge – 12 November.
- People Portal (ESR Replacement): The working group will meet on 4 November to review progress and agree the next phase of preparatory activity, alongside continued engagement with national programme partners and wider organisational communications.
- A local action plan is being developed in response to the 2026 NHS Wales Job Evaluation Audit. The plan will set out priority improvements to strengthen local arrangements, with initial submission due by 27 November 2026.
- The next phase of the Inclusive Recruitment Review will involve surveying young people, including current staff and those reached through external community groups, to understand their views and experiences of recruitment. Findings will help identify potential barriers and inform improvements to make our recruitment practices and employment opportunities more inclusive and accessible.
- Updated People & OD Partnering arrangements will be implemented to align support across Directorates with organisational priorities and strengthen resilience.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Population Screening and Quality Directorate
Executive Lead:	Claire Birchall
Reporting Month:	September and October 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	18 November 2026
Board Meeting Date:	26 November 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Reporting Period

Screening Division: DESW is developing further capacity models, including a solo-clinic pilot in which screeners run separate participant lists, and reviewing the camera evaluation report received from the Public Health Wales (PHW) research and evaluation team. Lung Screening Wales continues work on mobile scanning, radiology reporting, cohort data and capacity in services receiving onward referrals. Further modelling is required to establish the workforce and funding implications of an all-Wales Both Ears Clear approach.

National Safeguarding Service: The NSS has supported NHS Wales to consider and implement learning from national reviews and inquiries, including maternity reviews, the Ministerial Safeguarding Governance Review and the Thirlwall Inquiry. Following transfer of the Corporate Safeguarding portfolio on 1st October, a review is under way to produce a refreshed service specification supporting effective corporate safeguarding arrangements across PHW.
During Quarter 1, 40 requests for corporate safeguarding advice were received. The reduction from the previous quarter was attributed to clearer and more consistent decision-making within Sexual Health Wales following implementation of a standard operating procedure. Additional support has been provided within the corporate safeguarding team, through the recruitment to a fixed term 'Senior Nurse for Safeguarding' post.

Quality Management & Improvement Division: Discussions with the UK Space Agency Catapult identified a funding opportunity to trial satellite and mobile Wi-Fi connectivity on one BSW screening vehicle. VERE VR and a GP practice in ABUHB submitted a joint application to the NIHR innovation for improvement FAST call,

focused on technology-based innovations for chronic respiratory conditions in community, primary care and home settings. PHW is providing advisory support. Additionally, an evaluation of pilot relating to an enhanced nurse role in Breast Test Wales is being undertaken through interviews with relevant staff. Six of 13 interviews are complete, and analysis of recordings and transcripts is under way. Emerging themes from the preliminary findings include reported improvements in clinic throughput, staff morale, career development and patient experience, including shorter patient waits.

Successes:

Screening Division:

Digital colonoscopy pre-assessment pilot: Bowel Screening Wales has secured Contracts for Innovation Cymru (CFIC) funding to pilot an online pre-assessment tool for participants with a positive FIT result. The challenge launched through Simply Do on 14th September.

Cervical Screening Wales (CSW): Twenty-four GP practices across six health boards have expressed interest in phase one of cervical self-sampling. Histology turnaround times have improved but do not yet consistently meet standards. Workforce capacity remains a critical risk.

Lung Screening Wales (LSW): The Programme Board has approved a one-step risk-assessment model to improve participant experience and efficiency. The required approvals for procurement of the participant administration system have been secured.

Newborn Bloodspot Screening Wales (NBSW): Welsh Government has approved the capital business case to relocate and redevelop the Newborn Screening Laboratory at UHW. A successful revenue business case was also submitted to Welsh Government to support HT1 (Tyrosinaemia Type 1) screening and additional bloodspot screening and laboratory capacity. Screening revenue funding has been referenced publicly, but formal confirmation of the allocation and timing remains outstanding.

Newborn Hearing Screening Wales (NBHSW): The Both Ears Clear pilot in North Wales is operating safely and effectively. Through the extended pathway, 93% of babies receiving a clear outcome have been discharged.

Quality & Nursing Division

Welsh Risk Pool audit: PHW received a Reasonable Assurance rating following the Welsh Risk Pool audit of Decision Making and Consent to Examination & Treatment Standards.

Young Engagement Advisors: The Young Engagement Advisors contributed to the Public Health Conference and a Health Working Wales workshop, including presenting and supporting a plenary session.

Engagement and Equalities Team: The team delivered the first 'Meet the Sector' lunch-and-learn session with WCVA. Further sessions are planned following the successful initial event.

National Safeguarding Service

National primary care safeguarding capacity: Recruitment to the National Lead Safeguarding GP role is complete.

Corporate Safeguarding: The NSS assumed responsibility for the Corporate Safeguarding portfolio on 1st October.

Quality Management & Improvement Division

SCIP Bowel Screening Wales Colonoscopy Improvement Programme: The division contributed to the CFIC grant review for the 'Modernising the Bowel Screening pathway in Wales' challenge, which received 14 applications. Following panel review and a CFIC Decision Conference, three suppliers were selected, subject to satisfactory further information, to develop and test technology supporting the Specialist Screening Practitioner pre-assessment process.

Breast Test Wales – Ambient Voice Technology: Further testing of AI digital scribes with medical secretaries during weekly multidisciplinary team meetings has improved meeting management and refined the template used to record discussions.

Testing by breast care nurses has also refined the templates for assessment clinics and results appointments.

Public Health Wales Annual Quality Report: The report has been finalised and published internally and externally.

Key concerns and mitigating actions:

Staff influenza vaccination uptake and reporting: Accurate reporting remains constrained by difficulties obtaining health board uptake data for laboratory staff and reliance on self-reporting by staff who do not use flu vouchers to access vaccines. Flu Champions and regular communications are promoting vaccination, while the Flu Delivery Group monitors reported uptake. These measures support management of the programme, but data limitations remain.

Basic Life Support training provision: The procured training does not meet the level required for frontline clinical staff. The team is exploring supplementary training through the All Wales Resus Group to address the identified skills and competency gaps. POD are discussing improvements with the current provider.

Breast Test Wales – performance and capacity: Reading performance has improved, but assessment capacity remains constrained by sickness absence, maternity leave, vacancies and limited clinic capacity. The programme is also managing remedial work on mobile units and associated supplier and legal issues. Longer-term replacement of the legacy NBSS system remains necessary.

Diabetic Eye Screening Wales (DESW): Coverage improvement remains delayed pending consideration of the camera evaluation findings. The implications for the planned milestone and the 80% standard are set out in the Forward look.

Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening (WAAASP): Performance continues to meet requirements despite temporary workforce pressures. Cross-regional deployment is supporting service continuity, and a clinical subgroup is being established to strengthen consideration of clinical issues.

Antenatal Screening Wales (ASW): The addition of a new condition to the quadruple test has been delayed by analyser software issues. The revised implementation timetable remains aligned with England.

National Safeguarding Service - Grooming Gangs Inquiry (Rule 9 Request)

The NSS is leading a significant organisational response to the Grooming Gangs Inquiry Rule 9 request. The work involves a detailed and complex review of information spanning an extensive historical period. The short timescales for response and breadth of information required are being actively managed to

ensure a comprehensive and robust submission from an NSS and Corporate safeguarding perspective.
Quality Management and Improvement Division Capacity: Current and planned workloads are being reviewed against the anticipated reduction in capacity associated with maternity leave.

Forward look: planned outputs and key milestones:

Nursing and Quality Division:

- Launch the Quality Impact Assessment app and associated process.
- Finalise the Clinical Governance Group's terms of reference and reporting process.
- Progress implementation of the UK-wide Nursing and Midwifery Public Health Practice Framework. PHW has been asked to lead implementation in Wales on behalf of the Chief Nursing Officer.

National Safeguarding Service:

National primary care safeguarding capacity – November 2026: The National Lead Safeguarding GP is due to start in November. The role will support a national scoping exercise on primary care safeguarding, engagement and learning. Intended outputs include a clearer national understanding of primary care safeguarding needs and consistent, accessible engagement routes between primary care and NHS safeguarding governance structures.
Other planned activity will include:

- Deliver PHW and national programmes of events for Safeguarding Week, 9–13 November.
- Publish NHS Wales guidance on managing staff safeguarding allegations.
- Publish the NHS Wales Prevent assurance template.
- Issue the Chief Nursing Officer-endorsed Safeguarding Chaperone Principles through a Welsh Health Circular.
- Progress implementation of the NHS Wales Safeguarding Framework.
- Completion of Cohort 3 retrospective review of the Online Test & Post Service
- Leadership of the implementation of the national Datix Safeguarding Module will conclude with the all-Wales go-live on 1st January 2027. Delivery of this programme has required significant engagement and collaboration across NHS Wales and with multi-agency partners. The module will provide a consistent national approach to safeguarding incident management, reporting and data assurance, while establishing foundations for future digital interoperability and service improvement.

Quality Management and Improvement Division:

Demand and Capacity: Schedule workshops for all screening programmes in November and December 2026 to complete Quality Management System Maturity Matrix baseline assessments and define the scope of data modelling and demand and capacity analysis. These outputs will inform workforce planning. The Breast Test Wales workshop will complete its assessment and begin demand and capacity modelling.
Breast Test Wales – Enhanced Nurse role evaluation: Complete the remaining seven interviews in November 2026 and make the evaluation report available to service decision-makers early in 2027.

Screening Division:

Cervical self-sampling – December 2026: Launch phase one on 7th December 2026, subject to the November 2026 Programme Board decision on whether to proceed.

Digital colonoscopy pre-assessment pilot – March 2027: Delivery is expected by March 2027. The tool is intended to reduce telephone assessments for participants without additional health needs, releasing Specialist Screening Practitioner capacity for complex cases. Expected benefits include improved accessibility and participant experience, with potential reductions in colonoscopy waiting times; current waiting-time performance does not meet the standard.

DESW coverage – January 2027 milestone: The improvement in coverage previously anticipated from January 2027 will be delayed while the camera evaluation findings are considered. Modelling indicates that a conservative rollout of a targeted or staged mydriatic approach would improve coverage but would not achieve the 80% standard.

Breast Test Wales NBSS System: Ongoing work towards implementation of the NBSS system upgrade

WAAASP National Meeting: host the WAAASP Four Nations meeting.

DESW away day – 6 November 2026: Hold workshops to consider camera evaluation findings and options for increasing clinic capacity and improving participant experience.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Research, Data and Digital
Executive Lead:	Iain Bell
Reporting Month:	September and October 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	18 November 2026
Board Meeting Date:	26 November 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Reporting Period

Research & Evaluation / Evidence

- In response to asks from Welsh Government PHW performance review for Research, two cross organisational papers submitted outlining (i) PHW eligibility for national research funders and 2) PHW's role in the public health research system in Wales. Follow up system leadership discussion in November.
- Areas of research interest for Gambling harms published (22 October 2026).
- Development: Researcher Career support programme implemented bringing together PHW staff applying for the HCRW Faculty Awards and those on the HCRW mentor/mentee programme (n=16). Evaluation Community of Practice held an Economic Evaluation training session (118 attendees).
- Live dashboards created providing transparency on research bids and open studies across PHW.
- Lung cancer screening theory of change workshop completed (8 October 2026).

Data

- Impact of waiting times on health and economic outcomes – leading an exploration of associations between waiting times and health/economic outcomes in SAIL, commissioned by the Welsh Government as part of the independent review of NHS performance being conducted by the Health Foundation. This is novel work, as it is the first time these associations will have been investigated.
- Child Measurement Programme – commenced analysis of data for school year 2025/26.
- DARC – measurable progress in developments to realise benefits from analysis in the cloud, and in onboarding the first health and well-being directorate projects (national exercise referral and healthy working Wales), working with CDSC to plan

the next phases of migration to NDAP, workstream to migrate Alteryx and Tableau to PowerBi commenced, potentially saving £130k in licences per year.

Digital

- Cloud/Genomics
- Digital Health Protection
    - Continued development of DHP build. Remains on track for staggered releases in Oct/Nov for user acceptance testing
    - DPIA signed off for User Acceptance Testing
    - DHP training dates released to users with users now able to secure training sessions
    - RFC submitted moving completion of Phase 2 (all users live with DHP) to March 2027 (previously January 2027)
    - Two Business Change Facilitators have been onboarded to support training, roll out and adoption.

Registries

- DARC-R:
    - Second DARC-R Board 15 October 2026.
    - Overall excellent progress and projects remain on track, with many milestones complete – rapid cancer dataset on track to be completed by end March 2027.
- Presentation of findings of formative evaluation of RTSSS to stakeholder group (WG, ONS, suicide prevention leads in Wales). Report to be finalised and published on website, date TBC.

Successes

Research & Evaluation / Evidence

- The Prehab to Rehab process evaluation paper has been accepted for publication in BMC Cancer, supporting dissemination of learning and evidence from the programme.
- An evaluation team member successfully awarded a Centre for the Evaluation of Complexity Across the Nexus (CECAN) Fellowship, strengthening evaluation capacity and methodological expertise within the team
- Cell-free DNA (cffDNA) evaluation demonstrated reductions in anti-D use in pregnant women in Wales using interrupted time series and controlled interrupted time series designs. Consistent with the programme's aim of supporting more targeted prophylaxis and reducing unnecessary treatment for RhD-negative pregnant women carrying an RhD-negative baby.
- Process evaluation of Health Information for Parents booklets showed parents who received the booklets valued them as useful, informative, and reassuring; however, 38% of respondents reported not receiving the booklets. Recommendations include strengthening implementation to improve reach, enhancing how and when the booklets are introduced, and developing digital formats to improve accessibility and engagement.

Data

- CARIS - annual analysis (annual report and review/ rare diseases/ antenatal detection) completed ahead of schedule and with reduced capacity compared to

previous years (two analysts compared to four) following extensive development work to improve processes and increases efficiencies.
- Public Health Outcomes Framework – published latest data on 22 September 2026. This update provides age-standardised breakdowns of lifestyle indicators by sex, deprivation and rurality, which have not previously been available to stakeholders.
- SHRN Secondary School dashboard latest data (2025) published on 22 October 2026, followed by a stakeholder webinar and a well-received presentation to RDD.

Digital
- Digital Health Protection
    - Multiple releases with significant new functionality to early access environment for users to familiarise themselves with DHP.
    - On schedule completion of two Welsh Government interim milestones.

Registries

DARC-R
- WCISU
    - Efficiencies paper with recommendations completed and now awaiting approval.
    - Dataset catalogue completed and minimum Population-Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) awaiting approval.
    - WCISU NHS England workshop took place on 13 October 2026, with internal PHW workshop to take place 21 October 2026.
    - RCD: Script one of two. reviewed and modified for Wales where possible
    - Analysis Plan complete.
    - User engagement exercise initiated.

- CARIS. RTSSS. CDR
    - CARIS: Several key blockers, now unblocked for receiving radiology data from the LHBs. Cyber and workstream lead are engaging with C and V to resolve the final issue. Datix risk in relation to radiology data now closed.
    - CDR and RTSSS: Remaining delivery priorities are outlined. Delivery will now be supported through a new DevOps Agile approach focused on prioritisation, sizing and scoring to align work with programme priorities and capacity.

Any Concerns being managed

Research & Evaluation / Evidence
- SAIL-PHW Feasibility Hwb access paused due to awaiting extension of the ONS RAP approval. Delay partly due to late submission of RAP extension by PHW.

Data
- Unable to update the RTSSS monthly report as the data isn't ready due to staff sickness. Data should be ready ASAP.
- Healthy life expectancy – ONS report more concerns with the quality of this publication. The next update is postponed to 2028. We are working with ONS to understand the implications and will consider necessary internal comms. More information will be presented in the outcomes update to BET / Board in November 2026.

- NDAP: we are still waiting on DHCW setting up an automated refresh of data warehouse tables in Google Cloud Platform. The timescale on this remains uncertain. This is creating more work for analysts, through having to specify and chase up ad-hoc updates of datasets as they are needed. This is being escalated to DHCW senior leadership.

Digital

- Digital Health Protection
    - Concerns raised regarding HPSS resource availability for training. Resource requirements reiterated to senior HPSS leadership and via DHP programme board
    - Challenge around the digital clinical safety approach to DHP. The ToR and members of the Digital Clinical Safety is undergoing review to ensure it is fit for purpose and includes the correct members. The group will reconvene in late October 2026.

Registries

- RTSSS monthly reporting - August deaths report (which would usually be presented in the October meeting) delayed due to long term sickness in RTSSS team, so data inputting was paused. This is being managed and support has been provided by other teams in RDD. It is likely that both August and September reports will be available for presentation in November. Without additional support, both August and September deaths reports would have been paused.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Research & Evaluation / Evidence

- Three UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funded policy fellows (hosted by PHW) on one) Genomics two) Climate change 3) Gambling harms will go live on the UKRI website – 17 November 2026.
- Areas of research interest for Climate change due to be released – November 2026.
- Welsh Government action paper on PHW research prioritisation process to be submitted - end of November 2026.
- Cardiff University partnership – pandemic response and climate change work themes in development.

Data

- IMTP planning - supporting strategic priority leads with IMTP planning and embedding of the measurement system, considering impact measurement etc, with a particular focus at present on wider determinants.
- Community by Design – professional input to the outcomes metrics advisory group and Population Health Management discovery.
- Public Health Outcomes Framework – preparation for the next publication on 15 December 2026, to include the latest trends in teenage conceptions and smoking in pregnancy.
- AI - leading a Board development session on 29 October 2026.

Digital

- Digital Health Protection

- Completion and penetration testing of Release 1 build of DHP. This is what will undergo user acceptance testing.
- Start of DHP training for Release 1 users (HPT, Local Authority HP teams, CDSC and BCU health board).

Registries

- DARC-R
  - Rapid cancer dataset (RCD) – continue progress to create MVP
  - CDR and RTSSS: Work in collaboration with DevOps to produce the delivery plan of CDR in line with the new DevOps Agile approach and agree deadline to deliver CDR DARC-R priorities.
  - CARIS: Continued effort to ensure C and V engage with VP6 and submit monthly data. Formalise BAU arrangements in writing and circulate with CARIS and DevOps teams.
  - Implement next steps in relation to PHW AI LLM workshop.
- CARIS official statistics release (prevalence of congenital anomalies and childhood rare diseases and antenatal screening detection audit) on 10 November 2026.
- WCISU - Cancer Incidence in Wales, 2002-2023, publication – 15 December 2026. Cancer Survival in Wales, 2002-2023, publication – first quarter of 2027. Contributing to the development of the Welsh Government, National Cancer Strategy for Wales, launch February 2027.
- RTSSS – Deaths by suspected suicide 2025/26, publication 03 December 2026.

DIRECTORATE REPORT TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD

Directorate:	Strategy, Finance and Planning
Executive Lead:	Zoe Pietrzak
Reporting Month:	September and October 2026
Business Executive Team Meeting Date:	18 November 2026
Board Meeting Date:	26 November 2026

Overview of Key Activities During the Reporting Period

Finance and Performance

- Worked with Strategy and Planning colleagues to submit supplementary information requested by Welsh Government following the Q1 Baseline Review.
- Worked with Strategy and Planning colleagues to submit PHW's evidence for the Accountability Review Meeting with Welsh Government on 14 October.
- Progressed the Grip and Control Action Plan across the organisation and supported the internal audit of the Grip and Control Self-Assessment, which is due to conclude in November.
- Commenced financial planning for 2027–2030, including scenario modelling to provide early indications of the scale of the financial challenge and support Executive planning discussions.
- Prepared for and commenced Directorate Mid-Year Performance Reviews.
- Commenced meetings between the Director of Finance and individual Directors to assess financial positions, forecasts and any mitigating actions required.

Communications

- Communications continued to play an important role in helping Public Health Wales connect with staff, partners and the public. Through campaigns, media relations, stakeholder engagement and incident response, the Communications team supported Public Health Wales in achieving its priorities by keeping people informed, building trust and supporting better health outcomes across Wales.
- Improving patient experience – Supported the national rollout of the Type 2 Diabetes Point of Diagnosis Packs, helping people across Wales access consistent information and support at a critical point in their care journey.

- Maintaining trust on sensitive issues – Led communications on contaminated land and PCB concerns, ensuring public discussion was informed by evidence and expert advice.
- Protecting public confidence during incidents – Supported a number of health protection incidents and outbreaks, including the Sexual Health incident, River Taff pollution, Hepatitis A outbreaks, Legionella and Shamonda virus, while responding to 27 media enquiries and ensuring accurate, timely information reached the public and stakeholders.
- Supporting prevention – Delivered campaigns on vaping, flu vaccination, gambling harms and healthy food environments, helping people make informed choices about their health.

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs

- Submitted additional information on the Baseline Review in line with the Welsh Government request.
- Supported preparations for the Public Health Wales and Welsh Government Accountability Meeting.
- Submitted evidence to the Audit Wales Structured Assessment of Our Strategic Plan (IMTP) 2025–2029.
- Facilitated sessions with the Executive Team and Board on the review of our Strategy and development of the IMTP 2027–2030.
- Initiated scoping work for the optimisation programme.
- Established a working group to prepare for the replacement of ESR.
- Developed programme assurance plans.
- Planned and delivered SRO Essentials training.
- Finalised drafting of the benefits framework.
- Attended the Dragon's Heart Institute's Spread and Scale Academy to consider how to develop a Carbon Decision-Making Tool.
- Developed a long-term decarbonisation strategy for discussion at the Climate Change Programme Board.

Estates, Facilities and Health & Safety

- Awarded the required fit-out works to support the establishment of the Lung Screening Programme at Matrix House, Swansea.
- Supported the tendering and award of the Lung Screening Wales procurement contract for screening mobile units.
- Provided significant support to Screening Services in relation to remediation works for BTW mobile screening units.
- Progressed the completion and review of a number of Health & Safety policies.
- Developed and explored proposals for estate rationalisation and utilisation.

Successes

Finance and Performance

- Positive Accountability Review Meeting with Welsh Government colleagues including agreement to contribute additional £522k to wider NHS financial position.

Communications

- National reach for priority public health messages – Secured high-profile coverage across BBC Wales, ITV Wales and other national media, helping Public Health Wales reach wider audiences with evidence-based information on vaping, flu vaccination, gambling harms, diabetes and healthy food environments.
- Influencing the public conversation on youth vaping – National broadcast coverage of SHRN data highlighting reductions in youth vaping helped reinforce prevention messages and position Public Health Wales as a trusted voice on an issue of significant public and political interest.
- Welsh Public Health Conference – Successfully delivered our flagship conference, bringing together more than 350 delegates to share evidence, innovation and best practice, strengthening relationships and collaboration across the public health system.
- Digital innovation – Piloted a new news-style approach to presenting evidence online through the Gambling Harms Report, making complex information more accessible and engaging for audiences.
- Supporting service transformation – The successful rollout of the Type 2 Diabetes Point of Diagnosis Packs is helping to create a more consistent experience for patients across Wales and ensure people have access to trusted information at a crucial point in their care journey.
- Expanding in-house design support – Continued growth in demand for the in-house design service, providing high-quality, accessible and brand-compliant communications materials across the organisation.
- Strengthening digital services – Successfully migrated the Sexual Health Wales website and supported a range of priority developments, including the Help Me Quit vaping app, improved service information and new website content supporting our Duty of Quality commitments.

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs

- Received approval from Welsh Government for our IMTP 2026–2029.
- DARC-R (Registers) programme plan approved at DARC Programme Board.
- Successfully completed the MyPath Cymru mobilisation phase, including inception of two local implementation projects, approval of the outline programme plan, approval of the integrated design approach and convening of the initial stakeholder forum.
- The Tackling Diabetes Together team was shortlisted for an NHS Award in the 'Person Centred' category for the Point of Diagnosis Packs, with the ceremony to be held in November.

Estates, Facilities and Health & Safety

- Completed several estates capital projects within required timescales.
- Implemented arrangements to backfill the Health & Safety Advisor role.
- Led event management on behalf of the Health Protection, Infection and Environment Directorate for the International Association of Public Health Institutions (IANPHI) Conference hosted by PHW.
- Completed settlement arrangements with the landlord in relation to CQ2 service charges.

Any Concerns being managed:

Finance and Performance

- Financial planning in an environment of significant financial uncertainty

Communications

- High demand across incidents, campaigns and strategic programmes continues to place pressure on team capacity. Stakeholder engagement relating to the Sexual Health incident and contaminated land issues remains ongoing, with both requiring significant resource to manage media interest, partner engagement and public reassurance alongside business-as-usual activity. In addition, demand continues to grow across website support and design services, creating ongoing pressure on team capacity.

Estates, Facilities and Health & Safety

- Challenges continue in managing additional business activity resulting from the provision of reactive support across other areas of Public Health Wales.

Forward Look of key activities for next month

Finance and Performance

- Complete the remaining Directorate Mid-Year Performance Reviews and share identified successes across the organisation.
- Complete the remaining Directorate finance discussions with Directors to inform the financial outlook and identify any actions required for the remainder of the year to deliver the financial breakeven target.
- Continue to develop the financial plan as financial planning principles become clearer.
- Undertake an Accountability Review lessons learned exercise to inform preparation for the next review.
- Progress the refresh of performance reporting, incorporating performance approaches applied during the Accountability Review.

Communications

- Continue support for the Sexual Health incident and communications activity on antimicrobial resistance, smoking, HIV and substance use.
- Deliver winter campaigns, including flu vaccination, winter pressures messaging and Lung Cancer Awareness Month.
- Support Wales HIV Testing Week, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and World Diabetes Day.
- Review the Communications Business Continuity Plan and EPRR preparedness activity, including Ebola engagement planning.
- Continue internal communications activity, including Time with Tracey and the additional Leadership Forum, to support leadership visibility and staff engagement.
- Continue development of web services and user experience improvements, including support for official statistics publications and priority website enhancements.

Strategy, Planning and Corporate Affairs

- Implement the new business case framework and benefits framework following approval at Change Board.
- Implement initial work on the optimisation programme.
- Complete the Audit Wales Structured Assessment of Our Strategic Plan (IMTP) 2025–2029.
- Continue to deliver sessions with the Public Health Wales Executive Team, Board and Leadership Forum to develop the IMTP 2027–2030.
- Develop and publish guidance for the IMTP 2027–2030.
- Pilot the Carbon Decision-Making Tool in lung cancer screening.
- Organise and facilitate a sustainable procurement webinar with Business and Planning Leads to identify opportunities for decarbonisation savings in Public Health Wales procurement.
- Implement recommendations from the recent Decarbonisation Internal Audit.

Estates, Facilities and Health & Safety

- Progress work with Infection Services leads following completion of the initial scoping exercise to inform Infection Services accommodation improvements.
- Progress capital works at Matrix House, Swansea, to support establishment of the Lung Screening Wales operational base.
- Complete tendering for critical repair works at BTW Cardiff.
- Progress the portfolio of seven capital-funded projects across the estate.
- Review Fire Warden and First Aider training arrangements and deployment across the PHW estate to ensure robust arrangements are in place.
- Following receipt of the Welsh Government Energy Service estates review, explore potential opportunities for the installation of solar panels.
- Continue to progress, with support from Shared Services Procurement colleagues, national tender awards for mechanical, electrical, plumbing and small works specifications to support all PHW estates work.