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**Confirmed Minutes of the Public Health Wales
Knowledge, Research and Information Committee
Public Meeting 6 December 2022, 09:30
Held via Microsoft Teams**

Present:		
Sian Griffiths	(SG)	Committee Chair and Non-Executive Director (Public Health)
Diane Crone	(DC)	Non-Executive Director (University)
Nick Elliott	(NE)	Non-Executive Director (Data and Digital)
In Attendance:		
Rob Bailey	(RB)	Staff side Representative
Iain Bell	(IB)	National Director for Public Health Knowledge and Research
Fliss Bennee	(FB)	Head of Data, Knowledge Directorate (for Item 4)
Liz Blayney	(LB)	Deputy Board Secretary and Board Governance Manager
Tracey Cooper	(TC)	Chief Executive (joined the meeting at 10:05)
Ashley Gould	(AG)	Programme Director – Behavioural Science Unit/Consultant in Public Health (for Item 7)
Liz Heath	(LH)	Staff side Representative
Rebecca Hill	(RH)	Senior Public Health Specialist
Dafydd James	(DJ)	Head of Digital Experience and Services, Informatics (for Item 4)
Angela Jones	(AJ0)	Acting Director of Health and Well-being
Meng Khaw	(MK)	National Director of Health Protection Services and Screening Services, Executive Medical Director
Kirsty Little	(KL)	Consultant in Public Health, Health Intelligence, Knowledge Directorate
Louisa Nolan	(LN)	Head of Data Science, Knowledge Directorate (for Item 4)
Reanne Reffell	(RR)	Board Support Officer

Jan Williams	(JW)	Board Chair
Apologies		
Sumina Azam	(SA)	Consultant in Public Health, Policy, Research and International Development
Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood	(RBW)	Executive Director of Quality, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals
John Boulton	(JB)	Director for NHS Quality Improvement and Patient Safety/ Director Improvement Cymru
Helen Bushell	(HB)	Board Secretary and Head of Board Business Unit
Stuart Silcox	(SS)	Assistant Director of Integrated Governance, Quality Nursing & Allied Health Professionals
Secretariat		
Andrew Morton	(AM)	Board Support Officer
<i>The meeting commenced at 09:30</i>		
KRIC 1/2022.12.06 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies		
<p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Committee noted that the meeting was being recorded to support the accuracy of the minutes, the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been agreed at the following meeting in March 2023.</p> <p>The Committee noted the apologies.</p>		
KRIC 2/2022.12.06 Declarations of Interest		
There were no declarations of interest made, in addition to those already declared on the Declarations of Interest Register.		
KRIC 3/2022.12.06 Minutes, Action Log and Matters Arising		
The Committee received and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022.		
KRIC 3.1/2022.12.06 Update on Progress / Actions		
<p>IB gave a verbal update to the Committee on actions and progress of open actions on the Action Log.</p> <p>Action KRIC 3/2022.09.12: IB advised the Committee discussions with the Open University were progressing well, involving both the Knowledge and People and Organisational Development Directorates; it was intended that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Action KRIC 5/2022.09.12: A joint group from the Screening Division and the Data Division has awarded a contract following open competition, to develop and implement a product, and progress this to a live system as part of the transformation programme.</p>		
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A report would be presented to the Committee once the Research and Evaluation Strategy had been developed further; this would build on the strengths of each University to maximise the benefits. DC offered her support to link with University Networks.

The Committee would invite Kieran Walshe to discuss co-ordinating approaches with his work with Welsh Government. IB confirmed that he would follow this up

Action: IB/LB

KRIC 4/2022.12.06

Digital and Data Strategy

KRIC 4.1/2022.12.06

Strategy Progress Update

IB introduced DJ, FB and LN to the meeting, and provided an overview by way of a [presentation](#) of the current position with the development of the Digital and Data Strategy.

Through external links, IB was able to align Public Health Wales developing Digital and Data long term strategy with the Welsh Government's Digital Strategy and would report regularly on progress.

IB and DJ sought input from the Committee to further develop the strategy. Feedback was summarised in the presentation.

The Committee provided the following comment on the current issues:

Current issues:

- Speed of IT systems was variable in some areas of work, such as screening.
- Improvement was needed on the interconnectivity of systems, and on ensuring transparency.
- The need to be clear about the data that Public Health Wales required, and whether the right systems were set up to collect that data.
- Data collected should have a purpose, make a difference and improve the system.
- Collaboration was a key area, and consideration should be given to how data could be made available in a joined up approach thorough the organisation and wider afield, including working effectively with higher education.
- Digital literacy across Public Health Wales and within the public needed development.
- The need for a central entry point for external navigation, which provided links to the rest of the Organisation in one place.

Barriers and challenges within the system:

- Lack of central point for external navigation.
- The need to ensure effective horizon scanning.

- Need to ensure the needs of the user were considered, to ensure user friendly.
- Resilience of data and access to the system was a challenge, especially in periods of high demand
- Need to address data sharing standards and data sharing agreements, to ensure consistency.

Future developments for the Organisation:

- Better links to the different sources/types of data to create a linked ecosystem of data specific to the particular area of study.
- The system should be open, accessible, easy to navigate and contain relevant and up to date data.
- The data should be sufficiently granular, to enable flexibility of its use.
- Importance of ensuring the trustworthiness of the organisation's data
- Need to be clear and understand how the data was being used externally.
- Effective planning and investment.

DJ thanked the Committee for their contributions to the Strategy development process. He noted the emerging themes, such as the ambition of linked ecosystems and removal of barriers, were consistent with similar workshops that had been held.

FB provided further detail on the results from previous workshops and echoed the similarities with the feedback from this meeting.

IB outlined the next steps; the feedback from the Committee would feed into the development of a series of principles, from which the strategy would be developed to align with the Organisation's Long-Term Strategy. The outline Strategy would be presented to this Committee in March 2023.

Action: IB

SG thanked IB and his team for the presentation and productive workshop and the Committee looked forward to receiving an update at a future meeting.

KRIC 4.2/2022.12.06 | Artificial Intelligence Review

LN gave a [presentation](#) of a review on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health and Care in Wales; the review had been commissioned by the Chairs of Public Health Wales, Digital Health Care Wales and Health Education and Improvement Wales.

LN explained the goals of the review were to:

- Understand what AI had been implemented/tested/tried in health care in Wales.
- Review exemplars from health care outside Wales
- Understand the opportunities and barriers to further adoption of AI in health care in Wales

- Make recommendations for the future of AI in healthcare in Wales
- AI was perceived to speed up logistics, improve quality, improve decision making and save money.
- In Public Health Wales, AI could be used in a number of ways: to predict impact on risk analysis; automate coding classification; develop chat bots to interact with members of the public.
- Some prototype AI systems had been built. Concerns centred on the need for skills and infrastructure and the governance of working systems.
- A large gap existed between undertaking the research, development of prototypes, safe environments and the full implementation of AI.
- Noted the Welsh Government intention to incorporate AI in health care in an overall AI strategy. This review would be presented to the Minister for Health and Social Care next year.

SG thanked LN for the presentation and invited comments from the Committee.

The Committee discussed:

- The opportunity presented by AI, noting the need for a strong governance model to ensure transparency.
- The accuracy of AI imagery, compared to human imagery.
- The most effective areas for AI use, such as the imagery setting, which would present a learning opportunity to further roll out in to other settings in the future.
- The need to ensure links with relevant policy leads within Welsh Government and various partnerships, for example the Genomics Service.
- The steps that should now be taken to develop understanding of the opportunities presented by AI

SG thanked LN and her team for the excellent review and looked forward to further development updates in due course.

KRIC 5/2022.12.06

Research and Evaluation Strategy

KRIC 5.1/2022.12.06

Strategy Progress Update

The Committee considered an update from IB on the progress of the Research and Evaluation Strategy.

IB informed the Committee that he had identified areas in the strategy which required more work. A meeting had been arranged with MK to finalise priorities around population health challenges and research.

The Committee discussed:

- The need to ensure the strategy was both inward and outwardly facing. IB advised that external partnerships were being considered,

highlighting the previous discussion on collaboration within Universities that was in progress.

- The need to provide opportunities for employees in Public Health Wales to undertake research and not only be regarded as collaborators. IB noted this, and emphasised the organisations commitment to continuing professional development of all its employees.
- The need to further develop the links with academia, noting that using an academic approach to research evaluation was well recognised and applied the research rigours and stringent methodologies, which would be of benefit to the organisation.
- Suggestion to explore how the organisation could maximise individuals collaborating with others within departments, sections or Directorates.

The Committee **considered** the information provided within the paper, and **took assurance** on the progress to date to review and develop a Public Health Wales Research and Evaluation Strategy.

The Research and Evaluation Strategy would be presented to the next Committee meeting in March 2023.

Action: IB

KRIC 5.2/2022.12.06

Development of organisational standards: Equality in data collection for research and evaluation

IB provided a verbal update on progress with the development of standards to collect equality information which aligned with census data.

An external company had been employed to allow the routine collection of customer feedback. Recent census data was now available and a programme of work had commenced to allow the linkage of data held by the Organisation to the data provided by the census.

SG thanked IB for the update, and **noted** the progress made to improve the equality in data collection for research and evaluation.

KRIC 6/2022.12.06

Managing Risk

LB reminded the Committee that one Strategic Risk (Strategic Risk 5) was within the remit to this Committee to review for assurance as to effectiveness of the management of this risk within the organisation. She also confirmed that there were no Corporate Risks currently on the Corporate Risk Register within the remit of the Committee.

IB summarised the update provided within the paper, advised that the newly appointed team within his directorate would be able to progress with the mitigating actions to reduce the risk.

The Committee:

- **Considered** the Strategic Risk Register relevant to the Committee's remit.
- Took **assurance** that the organisation's Strategic risk was being managed appropriately.

KRIC 7/2022.12.06**Deep Dive: Behaviour Change**

SG welcomed AG to the Committee.

AG gave the Committee a presentation by way of an introduction to the Behavioural Science Unit:

- The Unit was established in May 2022 to support policy practitioners across PHW in policy development by providing specialist expertise on behavioural science and developing its application with the aim of improving health and wellbeing in Wales.
- The Unit was based within the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre with strategic input from organisations across Europe
- The aim of the Unit was to systematically study behaviour using a mixture of cognitive, psychological, social and environmental influences on behaviour, and it aimed to determine how and why the pattern of behaviour was seen, rather than rely on assumptions, a bias or a lack of knowledge.
- The work of the unit had three spheres of application; Public (health, harming/protecting behaviours and wider determinants), Professionals, and Policy (design to derive the change)
- Currently the Unit had ongoing collaborations with a number of Directorates and Divisions within the Organisation, for example Diabetic Eye Screening Wales and Bowel Screening Wales; providing policy and technical advice.

SG thanked AG for the informative presentation and invited comments from the Committee.

The Committee considered:

- The excellent work of the unit since its creation, and suggested that how the units work could be more widely publicised by explored.
- The role of Public Health Wales as a Public Health Institute, and the Unit's key role in discharging this role, for example through its current work on the cost of living crisis and the need to ensure community resilience by employing behavioural science and behavioural change.
- Suggestion that the Unit could be developed using multiple stakeholders across both public and private sectors; further development could include the formation of an advisory group and the participation of members of the public.
- How the Unit's work could be linked into the policy development across PHW. AG referenced a number of ongoing consultations with senior staff at Public Health Wales which led to policy development work.

AG agreed to share the Behavioural change documents ([‘Improving health and wellbeing: A guide to using behavioural science in policy and practice’](#) and [‘Responding to the climate crisis: applying behavioural science’](#)) with the Committee

Action: AG/LB

SG thanked AG for the presentation and asked him to keep the Committee updated of the work around Behavioural Change.

Action: AG/LB

KRIC 8/2022.12.06	Items to Note
KRIC 8.1/2022.12.06	Bi-Annual Policy update
The Committee noted the Bi-Annual Policy update.	
KRIC 8.2/2022.12.06	Committee Work Plan
The Committee noted the Forward Look for the Committee.	
KRIC 8.3/2022.12.06	Audit Report
None.	
KRIC 9/2022.09.21	Closing Administration
Any other business: None	
The Committee were invited to provide feedback from the meeting via email, including any areas that worked well, and any areas for improvement.	
Date of Next Meeting: 8 March 2023.	
<i>The meeting closed at 12:00</i>	