

**Confirmed Minutes of the Public Health Wales
Knowledge, Research and Information Committee
Public Meeting 6 June 2024, 11:00
Held in 3.4 CQ2 and via Microsoft Teams**

Present:		
Sian Griffiths	(SG)	Committee Chair and Non-Executive Director (Public Health)
Diane Crone	(DC)	Non-Executive Director (University)
Clare Jenkins	(CJ)	Vice-Chair
In Attendance:		
Sumina Azam	(SA)	National Director of Policy, and International Health
Iain Bell	(IB)	National Director for Public Health Knowledge and Research
Fliss Bennee	(FB)	Head of Data
Sharon Hillier	(SH)	Director of Screening Division
Danielle Gething	(DG)	Head of Risk Management
Alisha Davies	(AD)	Head of Research and Evaluation
Tom Connor	(TCO)	Head of Public Health Genomics Programme
Jim McManus	(JM)	National Director Health and Wellbeing
Louisa Nolan	(LN)	Head of Data Science
Paul Veysey	(PV)	Board Secretary and Head of the Board Business Unit
Apologies		
Tracey Cooper	(TC)	Chief Executive
Liz Blayney	(LB)	Deputy Board Secretary and Deputy Head of the Board Business Unit
Stuart Silcox	(SS)	Assistant Director of Integrated Governance
Nick Elliott	(NE)	Interim Chair
<i>The meeting commenced at 11:00</i>		
KRIC 1/2024.06.06 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies		
The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.		
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 on 5 September 2024.		
The Committee noted the apologies of:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracey Cooper - Chief Executive 		

- Liz Blayney - Deputy Board Secretary and Deputy Head of the Board Business Unit
- Stuart Silcox - Assistant Director of Integrated Governance
- Nick Elliott – Interim Chair

KRIC 2/2024.06.06

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made, in addition to those already declared on the Declarations of Interest Register.

KRIC 3/2024.06.06

Items for Assurance

KRIC 3.1/2024.06.06

Deep Dive: Screening (Priority 6)

SH provided an overview of the Screening programme and how information and knowledge research interacts with the work of the programme.

SH identified the need for safe and effective data and digital systems to deliver and evaluate screening programmes. This included the need for access to accurate demographic datasets, to ensure all eligible people were invited and managed through the screening pathway with outcome measures monitored. It was expected that a move to new outcome/performance measures would be made in June 2024 and would be presented to the Board. Joint working between the Screening division and Knowledge and Research Directorate was undertaken.

The Committee accepted recommendation 1 which was to support this joint working to be able to evaluate the screening programme impact on system outcomes.

SH highlighted the importance of equalities in order to improve the uptake of screening programmes, emphasising the need for more information on all protected characteristics including ethnicity. IB noted the work undertaken to utilise data from Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) database on screening which contained data on protected characteristics and the possibility of work to link in further data, but stated that this would be interim work whilst awaiting the long-term solution of gathering data through the NHS Wales app. IB agreed to follow up with Welsh Government for progress on the development of the app.

Action: IB to follow up

The Committee accepted recommendation 2 which was to support the approach that routine demographics in Wales should include data that enable a detailed understanding of equity across all protected and other relevant characteristics.

SH covered the importance of accurate data to allow for accurate screening invites and to allow screening systems to work effectively, alongside the impact of specific systems for different screening programmes. Examples of these included systems developed by Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) to cover bowel and aneurysm screening, the Dewis system for breast screening and an in-house developed system for cervical screening.

SH also highlighted some concerns to the Committee:



- A newborn screening system developed by DHCW has not been operating properly and despite discussions with DHCW no solution has been found which is a risk to the current system and to the expansion of services. This was due to DHCW no longer leading the contract work. Contact had been made with the original contractor and Public Health Wales would now be managing the platforming of this system using set aside investment.
- The impact of incomplete or incorrect demographic feeds such as incorrect personal data or addresses leading to people not being invited for screening.
- The current cancer information system (Canis) was to be replaced to be implemented in October/November 2024, and work had been undertaken with DHCW on a solution which would be presented in a few weeks. It was noted that it was important that data enabled tracking of the cancer journey through from screening to treatment and its outcomes.

The Committee agreed to recognise the work that is underway to ensure that the screening programme have safe and effective IT systems and the current issues that were are being taken forward to try to resolve with partners.

The Committee noted the report and **considered** and **accepted** the recommendations.

KRIC 3.2/2024.06.06

Lifestyle Factors Update

JM/JB provided an update on the work undertaken on lifestyle factors since the deep dive item presented at KRIC in June 2023. The need to clarify that the deep dive needed to build on previous discussion and to show integration across the organisational systems was discussed.

The Committee discussed what the format and structure of deep dive update reports should be for future reports, and noted that the following factors should be considered:

- Following up on aims from the deep dive item.
- Updates against IMTP timescales/long-term strategy
- Indicators of impact
- Tracking change/progress
- Using organisational strategy headings as a framework
- Identifying risks

The issue of a lack of analytical capacity was raised and JM/IB provided assurance that work was being undertaken to prioritise and make progress on this.

Action:

IB agreed to work with JM/JB to bring this item back at the next KRIC meeting in September, which would include a template for future deep dive area reporting.

KRIC 3.3/2024.06.06	Update on the Implementation of the Research and Evaluation Strategy
<p>AD provided an update on the implementation of the Research and Evaluation strategy, published in October 2023, to provide assurance on the progression of this work.</p> <p>The update covered work undertaken on the evaluation of best practice and a review of governance/risk to improve the quality of research, as well as the work undertaken with Health and Care Research Wales to identify and develop future research leaders within Public Health Wales.</p> <p>AD covered the development of strategic research partnerships between Public Health Wales and institutions such as Swansea and Cardiff University. The Committee questioned whether the partnerships would be extended to other areas of Wales. AD/IB assured that links with other institutions was important to strengthen the research capability of Wales and to be able to direct research to those with the best expertise and highlighted the publication of research priorities for Public Health Wales, which would be used to help develop relationships with external funders and drive research to key questions at national, UK wide and global level.</p> <p>The Committee noted the contents of this paper and took assurance that Public Health Wales, and the Research and Evaluation team, who were thanked for their work, were delivering on the core elements of the strategy.</p>	
KRIC 3.4/2024.06.06	Genomics
<p>TCo provided an update on the work done in the Genomics programme following the item presented in March 2024 and the deep dive done in July 2023.</p> <p>This update covered the work undertaken to develop and embed genomic services across patient to population level, and how this could support meeting strategic priorities. This included six MTP objectives associated with the programme this year and a training plan to enhance genomics skills across the Public Health Wales workforce.</p> <p>TCo highlighted the work done with researchers across the UK to develop resilience and innovation in genomics research, and the consultation being undertaken for a strategic genomics workforce plan. Committee members were encouraged to get any staff in areas connected to genomics work involved in the consultation.</p> <p>The Committee discussed how to ensure that research translated well into services, TCo noted that while some areas of the genomics programme such as pathogen genomics had a stable structure for this, others such as human genomics were still in development with horizon scanning and alignment to other areas of the UK needed. The Committee recognised this as a rapidly developing area where PHW was taking a commendable need across the UK and further afield.</p> <p>SG thanked TCo for the update and noted the work undertaken to link the genomics work across Public Health Wales.</p>	



The Committee took **assurance** on the progress being made against the IMTP objectives and on the range of other activities being undertaken. They also **endorsed** the aim to collaboratively develop key plans for analysis, data and research aspects of activity in a cross-organisational way.

Action: IB agreed to work with TCo to align this work with the Research and Evaluation/Digital and Data strategies.

KRIC 3.5/2024.06.06

Artificial Intelligence

LN provided an update on the work undertaken to develop the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in health and social care services within Wales.

This update included the recruitment of Life Sciences staff to the AI working group which assisted in keeping workplan progress on track and work on stakeholder mapping and engagement. LN highlighted the importance of good practice and guidance policy for AI, and noted the work led by Welsh Government that aimed to adopt the AI Digital Regulation service used in England.

LN covered the current testing of AI in areas of diagnostics such as breast/lung cancer screening and developing guidance for future implementation of AI across Wales. Work on generative AI had been developed, such as involvement in the pilot of the Microsoft AI Co-Pilot and the purchase of 4 licences for Chat GPT 4 by the Digital and Data Design Authority.

This item would be on the agenda for the Board Development session in October 2024 to look at the appetite for the further use of AI. The Committee suggested a need for specific examples to be used for clear demonstration.

The Committee questioned whether there was capacity to deliver on the opportunities of AI, LN noted that capacity was currently at a good level, but further expertise may be needed as work developed. The Committee also discussed how a lack of digital maturity may affect this work, IB noted that recruitment had been undertaken to cover skill gaps such as user research and data analysis but that much of Public Health Wales's IT estate was aged and a move to cloud-based working was needed. IB highlighted the need for an electronic health record and was involved in discussions with Welsh Government about finding this.

SG thanked LN for the update. The Committee **noted** the workplans for AI in Public Health Wales and the collaborative work underway across the health and social care system (and PHW's contribution to this).

KRIC 3.6/2024.06.06

Managing Risk

KRIC 3.6.1/2024.06.06

Strategic Risk Register

DG provided an overview of Strategic Risk 1 and 2 that fall under the remit of the Committee.

It was noted that both strategic risks were currently scored as high, and that progress had slowed on Risk 2.

DG noted that the next iteration of this paper would be brought to Board in July 2024, with analysis of strategic and corporate risks against approved risk appetite levels to be presented to the Board in the Autumn.

The Committee considered Strategic Risk 1 and 2 and took **assurance** on their management.

KRIC 3.6.2/2024.06.06	Corporate Risk Register
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The Committee considered the Corporate Risks within the remit of the Committee. IB noted that this would need an update and so would work with DG to address this.

Action: IB

The Committee took **assurance** on the updated Corporate Risk Register and on the management of risks within the remit of the Committee.

KRIC 3.7/2024.06.06	Bi-annual Summary of Policies
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PV provided an overview of the Bi-annual Policy Summary report which noted that the two policies discussed, the Intellectual Property Policy and the Research Misconduct Policy, were both in date and had no outstanding actions against them.

The Committee took **assurance** on the prioritisation and progress being made to review policies, procedures and other written control documents within the remit of the Committee.

KRIC 4/2024.06.06	Items for Approval
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KRIC 4.1/2024.06.06	Minutes, Action Log and Matters Arising of meeting (05 March 2024)
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The Committee **approved** the minutes of the 5 March meeting as an accurate record and **approved** the changes made to the action log.

KRIC 4.2/2024.06.06	Policies for approval
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There were no policies at this meeting.

KRIC 5/2024.06.06	For Recommendation to Board
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The Committee **ratified approval** out of meeting for the following documents, noting that they had been submitted to the Board in May:

- Committee Annual Report 2023/24
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Committee Effectiveness
- Committee Work Plan



With regard to the Committee Work Plan, the Committee noted the change following today's meeting to add a review of the Lifestyle Factors Deep Dive to September meeting.

Action: LB/JM

KRIC 6/2024.06.06	Items to Note
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KRIC 6.1/2024.06.06	Audit Reports
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There were no audit reports to discuss.

KRIC 7/2024.06.06	Closing Administration
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Any other business: None.

The Committee were invited to provide feedback from the meeting via e-mail to LB, including any areas that worked well, and any areas for improvement.

Date of Next Meeting: **5 September 2024.**

The meeting closed at 13:30

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