

**Unconfirmed Minutes of the Public Health Wales
Knowledge, Research and Information Committee
Public Meeting, 17 June 2025, 10:00
Held in 3.2 CQ2 and via Microsoft Teams**

| Present: | | |
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| Sian Griffiths | (SG) | Committee Chair and Non-Executive Director (Public Health) |
| Pippa Britton | (PB) | Chair of the Board |
| Huw David | (HD) | Non-Executive Director (Local Authority) |
| In Attendance: | | |
| Sumina Azam | (SA) | National Director of Policy, and International Health |
| Iain Bell | (IB) | National Director for Public Health Knowledge and Research |
| Liz Blayney | (LB) | Deputy Board Secretary and Deputy Head of the Board Business Unit |
| Tracey Cooper | (TC) | Chief Executive |
| Elen De Lacy | (EDL) | Public Health Research and Development Manager (for item 3.2) |
| Danielle Gething | (DG) | Head of Risk Management (for item 3.8.1 and 3.8.2) |
| Sharon Hillier | (SH) | Director of Screening Division (for item 3.3) |
| Ciarán Humphreys | (CH) | Consultant in Public Health (Wider Determinants of Health) (for item 3.4) |
| Dafydd James | (DJ) | Head of Digital Experience and Services (for item 3.7) |
| Amrita Jesurasa | (AJ) | Consultant in Public Health (Primary Care) (for item 3.1) |
| Meng Khaw | (MK) | National Director of Health Protection and Screening Services, Executive Medical Director |
| Jim McManus | (JM) | National Director Health and Wellbeing |
| Louisa Nolan | (LN) | Head of Data Science |
| Stuart Silcox | (SS) | Assistant Director of Integrated Governance |
| Zoe Wallace | (ZW) | Director of Primary Care (for item 3.1) |
| Oliver Williams | (OW) | Consultant in Public Health (Health Improvement) (for item 3.4) |
| Apologies | | |
| Claire Birchall | (CB) | Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance |

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| Nick Elliott | (NE) | Non-Executive Director |
| Clare Jenkins | (CJ) | Vice Chair of the Public Health Wales Board and Non-Executive Director |
| Paul Veysey | (PV) | Board Secretary and Head of the Board Business Unit |
| Secretariat | | |
| Ffion Lloyd | (FL) | Board Support Officer |
| <i>The meeting commenced at 12:00</i> | | |
| KRIC 1/2025.06.17 | Welcome, Introductions and Apologies | |
| <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.</p> <p>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 23 September 2025.</p> <p>SG thanked Diane Crone for their work as a member of the Committee, following her departure from the Board at the end of March 2025.</p> | | |
| KRIC 2/2025.06.17 | Declarations of Interest | |
| <p>There were no declarations of interest made, in addition to those already declared on the Declarations of Interest Register.</p> | | |
| KRIC 3/2025.06.17 | Items for Assurance | |
| KRIC 3.1/2025.06.17 | Deep-Dive: Supporting the development of a sustainable health and care system focused on prevention and early intervention | |
| <p>JM introduced a presentation on the work undertaken in relation to secondary prevention in Health and Care areas as part of strategic shift to prevention in Wales.</p> <p>ZW noted the focus of Strategic Priority Four to develop a sustainable healthcare system based on prevention and early intervention, with an aim to maximise opportunities to prevent disease morbidity by 2035. This would include a co-ordinated approach to prevention across the organisation and working with Health Boards.</p> <p>ZW also noted the aim to monitor the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, but that this would rely on access to GP data systems and patient registers that was subject to ongoing discussions with Welsh Government.</p> <p>ZW highlighted some examples of Public Health Wales programmes and life courses that addressed secondary prevention, such as screening programmes and national safeguarding.</p> <p>AJ covered the prevention based Health and Care Framework due to be published in June 2025, that highlighted the systematic approach needed to embed prevention</p> | | |

across NHS Wales. This framework would aim to identify gaps in provision, where interventions would be most effective, and how best to meet the needs of the population.

AJ/JM highlighted examples of effective prevention programmes:

- All Wales Diabetes Prevention – this programme showed positive results in reducing rates, with participants showing a 23% lower risk of developing diabetes and reduced progression to Type 2.
- Tackling Diabetes Together – this included promotion of diabetic eye screening, the production of a behavioural systems map, and the recruitment of a new programme director.
- Cardiovascular Disease Prevention – This involved the establishment of a steering group that involves colleagues across the cardiovascular disease and primary care network, work with a team in England to develop an approach to address blood pressure and hypertension, and an ABCD Plus Prevention Plan for Wales.
- Supporting Healthy Behaviours – guides produced that support the identification of people who require support.

The Committee discussed the following:

- The level of concern around access to GP data. IB noted that this was an issue outside of Public Health Wales's control and that IB had written to Welsh Government, but it was not anticipated that this issue would be resolved before 2026.
- TC noted that previous conversations on access to patient data with Welsh Government had identified resistance and a lack of progress.
- Query as to the work being undertaken to detect disease in patients without illness symptoms. AJ confirmed that The University of Newcastle had been commissioned to undertake a systematic review of the effectiveness of the diabetes prevention programme, and that better utilisation of GP and patient data could assist in identifying cases. AJ also noted discussions had taken place with screening colleagues to look at evidence for the effectiveness of opportunistic identification and screening.
- IB suggested that a future Research and Evaluation update should include a look at the benefits of moving to a real world evaluation approach for evaluating public health.
- ZW highlighted whilst GP data access was not yet available, quality improvement projects were underway with GPs to improve the coding of their data, such as ensuring those with various pre-diabetic conditions have the same code.

The Committee thanked JM and colleagues for the presentation, and took **assurance** on the progress of Health and Wellbeing Directorate work on secondary prevention.

KRIC 3.2/2025.06.17

Research and Evaluation Strategy

EDL provided an update on the implementation of the Research and Evaluation Strategy.

EDL highlighted the key points from the report:

- The Annual Healthcare Research Wales Performance Report was received in March 2025, which gave positive feedback on the work of Public Health Wales on working with research partners and the development/delivery of research, emphasising the leadership role of Public Health Wales.
- Work was underway to develop a mentorship programme with Healthcare Research Wales, which would look to support new researchers in their applications to gain research grants. A similar programme in 2024 had shown very positive results.
- Public Health Wales was funding a climate change research co-ordinator to focus on support for Strategic Priority Six.
- The Academic Public Health Report was published in May, and a workshop was scheduled for July for universities across Wales to learn about the report. This work would aim to develop an academic research strategy for universities to sign-up to, and lead to the development of a research community.
- The strategic partnership with Cardiff University was continuing to develop
- A new evaluation lead for Diabetes had been appointed
- The evaluation programme across Public Health Wales, was continuing to develop and work was being undertaken on the Community of Practise which now had 450 members across the organisation.

SG thanked EDL for the update and noted the amount that had been achieved in the eighteen months since the agreement of the strategy.

The Committee noted that the increase in research funding showed Public Health Wales's reputation as a research lead and congratulated all those involved on good progress. It was noted that areas such as inequalities should be a strong focus of future research, and suggested the potential for a research oversight group to be established ensure that areas such as this were incorporated into work programmes.

The Committee took **assurance** on progress on the implementation of the organisational Research and Evaluation Strategy.

KRIC 3.3/2025.06.17

Update on Strategic Priority 5

SH provided a presentation on the work undertaken to deliver and improve Public Health Wales screening programmes as part of Strategic Priority 5. This included seven screening programmes delivered in line with UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC) recommendations and included the assessment of evidence against the criteria to appraise the effectiveness of screening programmes.

SH noted that Public Health Wales was able to feed into UKNSC work, and highlighted the recent recommendations from the UKNSC:

Key areas highlighted were:



- The Introduction of Tyrosinemia type 1 as part of newborn blood screening – this had been recommended by UKNSC in November 2022 and accepted by the Wales Screening Committee in August 2023. A Wales Implementation Group had been established to support this, but the connected IT system was not fit for purpose and an expansion of laboratory equipment was required.
- Lung screening – this programme would be targeted lung screening for people aged 55-74. This was approved by the UKNSC in September 2022, and the Welsh Government has requested a plan on how this could be introduced in Wales particularly since lung cancer had been identified as a leading cause of death in Wales. Public Health Wales's business case and implementation plan for this programme had been approved by the Board, had been submitted to Welsh Government and was awaiting feedback from the Cabinet secretary.
- Potential use of artificial intelligence in breast and diabetic screening.
- Research into use of newborn genome sequencing.

SH highlighted a collaboration between Public Health Wales and Cardiff University on a project to promote population screening research, evaluation and education, with a focus on inequalities. Joint funding bids were being developed towards screening focused research projects.

SH noted engagement in additional research programmes funded by Cancer Research UK to improve the accuracy of bowel cancer screening, and to evaluate approaches to improve uptake of screening offers.

SH noted the work undertaken to develop evaluation of the impact of screening programmes, and shared a case study of a cross organisational targeted intervention to understand the barriers to attendance for aneurysm screening appointments and to increase the likelihood of those invited taking up offers. The evaluation had shown an improved update of screening appointments booked, and aneurysms detected in previous non-responders.

SH described the next steps for this work which involved continuing to evaluate the impact of screening programmes on system outcomes, and the aim to implement the use of demographic and equity data to further evaluate uptake rates.

IB noted the publication of the first report of cancer registration by ethnicity, and that the next phase of this work would look to link this to screening and mortality data.

MK noted that Welsh Government would also want to focus on the impact of early diagnosis, and questioned if real-time data to support this was available. IB agreed to discuss with MK out of meeting.

The Committee discussed the following points:

- Whether Public Health Wales was behind in the development of these programmes. IB noted that Public Health Wales starting point for some of the programmes was further behind than other nations, such as in Newborn Screening where a new IT system was needed but that this would provide a stronger foundation to build from. IB suggested that the NHS app would have

the functionality to provide data and support in this area, but noted that there had been a lack of transparency on it's prioritisation and agreed an action to drive that forward.

Action: IB

- Query as to whether there was an estimated timeline for adoption of the new Newborn Screening Programme. SH noted that there had been issues with the previous Digital Health and Care Wales IT system for this, but that a new system within Public Health Wales was in development that should be implemented within the next few months. SH highlighted that a change in system would also require changes in laboratory equipment and that a business case had been mapped out by Cardiff and Vale Health Board, but that no change was expected in the 2025-26 financial year. SH also noted that this would result in different systems between Wales and England which would require careful monitoring of newborns moving across the border. IB/SH agreed on a joint action to develop a detailed timeline of the new system and bring it to a future meeting.

Action: IB/SH

- The Committee also asked whether screening programme changes were funded by Welsh Government. SH confirmed that where additional funding was required Welsh Government approval was sought, but that Public Health Wales would make changes to programmes if possible without funding.
- A presentation on bowel screening figures would be made to Health Board Chairs in September 2025 and would include a discussion on what support Public Health Wales could provide.

SG thanked SH for the update, and the Committee agreed to support:

- Joint working to be able to evaluate the impact of screening programmes on system outcomes.
- The approach that routine demographics in Wales should include data that enable a detailed understanding of equity across all protected and other relevant characteristics.

KRIC 3.4/2025.06.17

Update on Strategic Priority 1: Influencing the Wider Determinants of Health

SA introduced a presentation which summarised the progress to date against Strategic Priority One (Influencing the Wider Determinants of Health) and the planned next steps.

SA highlighted the setup of a priority group to enable the delivery of this strategic priority against the Routemaps (once finalised), as well as the four strategic objective themes:

- People
- Places
- System Goals and Capability
- Evidence and Alignment

The presentation covered several examples of work undertaken in this area:



- OW covered the digital developments of the Healthy Working Wales (HWW) programme. This included the delivery of mental health webinars, the launch of a new HWW website in April 2025 with updated content, and the development of tools such as employee surveys and wellbeing resource packs. This work was focused on employees aged 16-24 and disabled people.
- A cross-organisational programme to understand the relationship between economic activity and public health, such as which sections of the population were affected and what knowledge gaps exist. CA highlighted several key points:
 - Public Health Wales was able to review evidence and feed into the work of the Trailblazer programme that was submitted to Welsh Government.
 - Issues existed with data sources such as the Labour Force Survey and Population survey due to reduced response rates, so other data sources such as from the Department of Work and Pensions was being utilised.
 - Public Health Wales was the main Welsh partner in a bid with UK Research and Innovation to understand and rethink economic activity, with the response expected by October 2025.
- The application of system based approaches to implementation and evaluation of the Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales programme, to enable Public Services Boards to take more joined up, effective action on wider determinants.
- SA highlighted the joint project between Public Health Wales and Welsh Government to support public bodies in the implementation of health impact assessment regulations, which were due to be approved by Autumn 2025. SA noted that identified knowledge gaps on what the impacts of interventions and policies were on health and equity may affect this work.
- The commission of research on the extent that health and equity is implemented in Local Development Plans.
- Work undertaken by a public health economics team to understand the social value of Public Health Wales. This would include the production of a social value e-guide for publication across NHS Wales by July 2025, and a value proposition to understand the impact and value of Public Health Wales programmes.
- SA highlighted Public Health Wales's work on housing temperature and health, which also took into account the issues of climate change and the cost-of-living crisis. This would go on to inform the Fuel Poverty Advisory Panel for Welsh Government.

CH also noted the use of the outcomes/measuring framework (which would be discussed later on the agenda).

The Committee questioned whether there was enough capacity within the organisation to support the implementation of the proposed increase profile of health impact assessments. SA confirmed that recruitment had taken place to increase resources within the team, and that Public Health Wales's role had been made clear to Welsh Government so that the work did not expand past available capacity.

SG thanked SA and colleagues for their presentation, and the Committee **considered** the work that has been undertaken and plans for future on Influencing the Wider Determinants of Health, and took **assurance** on progress to date.

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| KRIC 3.5/2025.06.17 | Outcomes Framework |
| <p>IB provided an overview of the development of an outcome/measurement framework following discussion at the Board meeting on 30 May 2025.</p> <p>This framework would look into how to best measure the impact of Public Health Wales work, and would cover three key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes monitoring – this included identifying the gaps in monitoring (such as challenges in the survey environment), and solutions such as proxy indicators. • Policy modelling – identifying what policy areas should be advocated to Welsh Government to have the greatest impact. • Evaluation – a set of evaluation priorities had been agreed. <p>IB noted the aim to report any outcome updates to Board alongside the Rapid Overview Dashboard.</p> <p>IB agreed that this item would be incorporated as a standard item into future meetings to update on progress or any issues.</p> <p>Action: FL/IB</p> <p>The Committee took assurance on the measurement system presented.</p> | |
| KRIC 3.6/2025.06.17 | Bi-Annual Corporate Policies Update |
| <p>LB provided the bi-annual report on the status of policies and procedures within Public Health Wales.</p> <p>LB noted that the two policies under the remit of the Committee were in date at this time.</p> <p>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.</p> | |
| KRIC 3.7/2025.06.17 | Data and Digital Strategy |
| <p>IB provided an overview of the current progress to deliver and implement the Digital and Data Strategy.</p> <p>IB highlighted the key points from the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the previous Digital and Data update, it had been noted that current demand was greater than the available resources allowed for. This led to the development of a prioritised set of digital programmes and investment into core areas, such as digital architecture and moving infrastructure to the cloud. • Approval had been received from Welsh Government for the outline business case on Digital Health Protection. A full business case would need to be produced by the end of October 2025 and would require the organisation of a delivery partner. | |

- The work to ensure an operational cloud system was ready for Digital Health Protection was on track
- There was high pressure to deliver the lung cancer screening programme, but progress was being made.
- The aim to complete the migration of all analysis data into the National Data Resource by the end of March 2027, with a third of this completed by the end of 2025.

Approval from Welsh Government on the business case of Digital Health Protection, delivery partner needed

IB also provided an update on the national programmes linked to Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW):

- Laboratory Information Management System – a proposal for a re-prioritisation of the programme had been received. IB had undertaken work on this with DHCW due to concerns that the newly proposed timeline would not be achievable.
- Challenges had been faced with the replacement cancer data system but improved progress had been made on system testing.
- Concerns had been raised around the management of the newborn screening programme; IB would be writing to DHCW to seek assurance on their delivery of this.

SG thanked IB for the update, and the Committee took **assurance** that Public Health Wales is delivering its Digital and Data Strategy through the agreed Routemap and has robust governance in place for managing digital and data work.

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| KRIC 3.8/2025.06.17 | Managing Risk |
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| KRIC 3.8.1/2025.06.17 | Strategic Risk Register |
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SS/DG provided an overview of the Strategic Risks that fall under the remit of the Committee.

SS noted that the refresh of the Strategic Risk Register was near completion, and would be discussed at the next Business Executive meeting before the finished document was submitted to the 31 July Board meeting.

DG highlighted the changes to the Strategic Risks under the remit of the Committee:

- Strategic Risk One (failure to deliver our role to influence a system shift to prevention, reduce health inequalities and address determinants of health) – this was an amalgamation of previous Strategic Risk one, two and three following discussion and consultation with the Executive Team and Board members.
- Strategic Risk Four (failure to effectively mitigate the public health impacts of climate change on the Welsh population) – this risk had been identified from an analysis on the Integrated Medium Term Plan Routemaps that had shown a gap in relation to the mitigation of the effects of climate change. DG noted that the actions and controls for this risk would be updated after the meeting of the Climate Change Programme Board on 1 July 2025.

- Strategic Risk Five (to fully exploit digital and data fully to improve public health in Wales) – this risk was previously held on the Corporate Risk Register but had been escalated to the Strategic Risk Register.

SG thanked SS/DG for the update, and the Committee:

- **Noted** the revised reporting template approach for Strategic Risk.
- Took **assurance** on the management of Strategic Risk within the Organisation.

KRIC 3.7/2025.06.17

Corporate Risk Register

DG provided an overview of the Corporate Risk Register as reviewed by the Leadership Team.

SG noted the Corporate Risks listed for improvement and that these were being addressed. SG also praised the improved layout of the Corporate Risk Register.

The Committee took **assurance** of the management of the Corporate Risk Register.

KRIC 4/2025.06.17

Items for Approval

KRIC 4.1/2025.06.17

Minutes, Action Log and Matters Arising of meeting (28 March 2025)

The Committee **approved** the minutes of the 28 March meeting as an accurate record. An update was provided on any outstanding actions, which included revised due dates:

- Action 2025/02 – this had been proposed to be moved to the 23 September meeting for a further update.
- Action 2024/15 - this had been proposed to be moved to the 23 September meeting, and would be reassessed following the changes to the Strategic Risk Register.
- Action 2024/6 – IB provided an update that whilst the proposition to include equalities data collection within the NHS Wales app as a priority had been put forward to Welsh Government, there had been no received updates on progress, and that IB would continue to pick up how to move this forward. SG offered Committee support to resolve this, which may include sending communications on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee **approved** the changes to the action log.

KRIC 4.2/2025.06.17

Committee Review 2024/25 and Forward Plan 2025/26

LB provided an overview of the following papers regarding the Knowledge, Research and Information Committee:

- Committee Effectiveness Survey Summary
- 2025-26 Committee Workplan
- Updated Committee Terms of Reference – this contained no major changes but had been updated to include more explicit reference to Artificial Intelligence under the remit of the Committee.



LB noted that the papers had been seen by the Board at the 29 May 2025 meeting and that the papers were presented at this meeting for formal ratification.

The Committee:

- **Ratified** and **noted** that the following documents were presented to the Board on the 29 May 2025:
 - Committee Workplan for 2025/26
 - For assurance that the Committee has the appropriate plan in place for 2025/26 to fulfil its terms of reference.
 - Revised Committee Terms of Reference Review
 - Committee Effectiveness
 - Consider the summary of the review of Committee effectiveness.
 - Note that the Cross Committee Chairs Group will review progress with the implementation of the actions and next steps during 2025/26.

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| KRIC 5/2025.06.17 | Items to Note |
| KRIC 5.1/2025.06.17 | Audit Action Log Progress Update |
| There were no Audit recommendations within the remit of the Committee to report on. | |
| KRIC 5.2/2025.06.17 | Audit Reports |
| There were no Audit reports within the remit of the Committee to report on. | |
| KRIC 5.3/2025.06.17 | Committee Workplan |
| The Committee noted the work plan. | |
| KRIC 7/2025.06.17 | Closing Administration |
| 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: 23 September 2025. | |
| The meeting closed at 12:36 | |