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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
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Public Health  
Wales

**Confirmed Minutes of the Public Health Wales  
Knowledge, Research and Information Committee  
Open Meeting 08 December 2021, 09:30  
Venue: via Microsoft Teams**

<b>Present:</b>		
Sian Griffiths	(SG)	Committee Chair and Non-Executive Director
Diane Crone	(DC)	Non-Executive Director
Kate Eden	(KE)	Non-Executive Director and Vice Chair, Public Health Wales
<b>In Attendance:</b>		
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
Iain Bell	(IB)	Director of Data, Knowledge and Research
Liz Blayney	(LB)	Deputy Board Secretary and Board Governance Manager
Helen Bushell	(HB)	Board Secretary and Head of Board Business Unit
Tracey Cooper	(TC)	Chief Executive (left at 10:25)
Alisha Davies	(AD)	Head of Research and Development
Drew Evans	(DE)	Head of IM&T, Informatics
Meng Khaw	(MK)	National Director of Screening and Health Protection Services, Executive Medical Director
Kirsty Little	(KL)	Consultant in Public Health, Health Intelligence, Data, Knowledge and Research Directorate
Rachel Long	(RL)	Directorate Governance and General Manager, Data, Knowledge and Research
Verity Winn	(VW)	Audit Wales
<b>Apologies</b>		
Mark Bellis	(MB)	Executive Director of Policy Research and Development, Policy, Research and International Development
<b>Secretariat</b>		
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Andrew Morton		Board Support Officer
<i>The meeting commenced at 09:30</i>		
<b>KRIC 01/2021 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>		
<p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the reconvened Committee, noting that due to the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in respect of the national guidance in place, meetings were being held electronically.</p> <p>The Committee <b>noted</b> the apology above.</p> <p>The Committee <b>noted</b> 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 2022.</p>		
<b>KRIC 02/2021 Declarations of Interest</b>		
<p>There were no declarations of interest made in addition to those already declared on the Declarations of Interest Register.</p> <p>As part of the discussion on item 3, SG reminded the Committee of her declaration as the Deputy Chair of Gamble Aware.</p>		
<b>KRIC 03/2021 Terms of Reference</b>		
<p>The Terms of Reference (3a, b KRIC 081221 - KRIC Terms of Reference) were received by the Committee. LB informed the Committee a review of the Knowledge, Research and Information Committee Terms of Reference had taken place and proposed amendments were approved by the Board on 25 November 2021; the review followed a period where the Committee had not been operating as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The full changes were detailed in the cover report, with the updated terms of reference included in full as Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Committee <b>noted</b> the Terms of Reference.</p>		
<b>KRIC 04/2021 Research and Evaluation – Strategy Development</b>		
<p>IB led a workshop concentrating on the research, evaluation and knowledge aspects of the remit of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee were asked to consider where the Organisation’s research and evaluation was strong within Public Health Wales:</p> <p><b>Organisational Position</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Wales’ size and position in the wider NHS System: it is unique as a National Health Institute covering the breadth of public health, and with the policy and practice-lead links;</li> <li>• The importance of the work done in laboratories should be high on the agenda and embedded into work plans and ethos of the Organisation.</li> </ul>		
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**Evidence and Data**

- Evidencing value was a growing area (World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre [WHO CC]);
- Health inequalities evidence;
- A rapid evidence base was quickly developed during pandemic;
- Good at informing prevention using the data.

**Evaluation**

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) are an important tool for communicating evidence;
- Epidemiological work and response: Access to a range of data due to the Organisation's role.

**Working with Partners and Collaboration**

- Forging and development of collaborations: Good practice and profile in areas such as ACES and current collaboration with Bangor University on climate change;
- Importance of Bi-directional partnerships.

The Committee then considered the places and organisations in Wales where the Organisation should be developing links.

The focus of the discussion was on the following areas:

- **Partnership and collaboration:** Partnership and collaboration were key elements for building and developing the functions of institute; importance of an agile approach to capitalise on strengths.
- **Allies and champions throughout the system:** Opportunity to further develop the network of academia partners.
- With planning for Brexit and for Covid, new networks and opportunities had arisen and developed.
- **Utilise links with Universities:** ensure important strategic collaborations in these areas with each individual Institution.
- **Screening:** Build on the links established with the third sector to increase the uptake of screening services.
- **Life Sciences:** Rapidly growing life science agenda and the opportunity of developing this innovatively.
- Ensuring **stakeholder input.**

The Committee then discussed the areas for development for Public Health Wales Research and Evaluation:

- Further system leader collaboration with academic partners to ensure the focus of research outcomes on maximising the population health benefits; behavioural insights to focus the research areas;
- Ensure a full overview of all research in the organisation is presented covering the full breadth of activity, feeding into the ecosystem of research;

- Consideration how Public Health Wales could facilitate a single route in for potential external partners, to support the wider development of effective strategic partnerships;
- Further development of a collaborative network to enhance shared goals across the system;
- Health equity and the wider determinants of the public's health was a key area to research and presented a huge opportunity to increase primary research;
- Further improvements in funding research and support the bidding processes.

IB asked the Committee for their views on what the key principles were for Public Health Wales research:

- To be action-orientated to improve the health of the population of Wales or develop new Health protection science to improve outcomes;
- Support to the entire system by liaising with partners as they were key in the delivery of the services to the public;
- Enable and support evidence-based decisions for Public Health Wales and partners;
- Be delivered in partnership and co-produced.

The Committee discussed the Public Health Wales' research and evaluation strategy that was to be developed, and suggested that it should:

- Focus on evaluation of what works to improve the health and well-being of the people of Wales;
- Be more quantitative and science-based, use mixed method approaches to evaluations;
- Be delivered at right-time for evidence-informed decision-making at all levels and enable evidence to be developed both nationally and locally.
- Aligned with strategic priorities.

IB thanked the Committee for the comments, and noted that the strategy development process was currently being established, and that as part of this, the team were reviewing how it would be agreed, published and how it would effectively reach its target audiences. This would be brought to the Committee for consideration as part of its development.

IB outlined the need to review each research area and determine its priority, and how / whether it should be funded: funding directly, bid for bringing in funding, and those a partner organisation may fund, or adopting a watching brief.

The Committee discussed the priorities for research, evaluation and analysis:

- Learning from COVID including how Public Health Wales effectively fulfils its role: alerting the system, contributing and advising based on research;

- Working with stakeholder groups in the community to deliver to all the groups, particularly those most impacted by COVID, vulnerable populations;
- Long-term strategy priorities;
- Alcohol and gambling and the increase of this post COVID;
- Mental health, Anxiety, depression and well-being issues post COVID;
- Strategic partnerships with the academic sector.

The Committee **agreed** with the next steps to develop this strategy as described and looked forward to receiving updates from IB at future meetings.

<b>KRIC 05/2021</b>	<b>Work Programme</b>
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The Committee discussed the work programme, and agreed the following focus for the Committee to take assurance on/ from:

- The development of the Research and Evaluation strategy.
- The development of an approach to partnering.
- The development of a Digital and Data Strategy that aligned with the developing All-Wales Health and Care Digital Strategy.
- The right governance in place to enable delivery against each of the strategies.
- Deep dives on areas of focus (mainly cross-cutting).

<b>KRIC 06/2021</b>	<b>Closing Administration</b>
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Any other business: There was none to record.

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: 10th March 2022.

*The meeting closed at 11:40*