

 <p> <b>GIG</b>      CYMRU  <b>NHS</b>      WALES   </p> <p>     Iechyd Cyhoeddus      Cymru      Public Health      Wales   </p>	<p> <b>Name of Meeting</b>        Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee     </p> <p> <b>Date of Meeting</b>        12 October 2023     </p> <p> <b>Agenda item:</b>        3.1     </p>
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<h2 style="text-align: center;">Tuberculosis (TB) Action Plan – Progress Update</h2>	
<b>Executive lead:</b>	Dr Fu-Meng Khaw, National Director of Health Protection and Screening Services, Executive Medical Director
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<b>Approval/Scrutiny route:</b>	Dr Giri Shankar, Director of Health Protection
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<p> <b>Purpose</b>        To update the Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee on progress of agreed actions following the independent review into the response to the outbreak of Tuberculosis (TB) centred on Llwynhendy, Carmarthenshire.     </p>
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<b>Recommendation:</b>				
APPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take <b>assurance</b> on the progress of actions contained within the approved PHW TB Action Plan following the external review of the management of the TB outbreak in Llwynhendy, Carmarthenshire.</li> </ul>				
<p> <b>Link to Public Health Wales <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a></b>         Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities and well-being objectives.         This report contributes to the following:     </p>				

<b>Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective</b>	5 - Protecting the public from infection and environmental threats to health
<b>Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective</b>	Choose an item.
<b>Strategic Priority/Well-being Objective</b>	Choose an item.

<b>Summary impact analysis</b>	
<b>Equality and Health Impact Assessment</b>	An equality impact assessment has not be undertaken.
<b>Risk and Assurance</b>	The information presented in this report does not relate to the Board Assurance Framework (BAF), Corporate Risk Register (CRR) or the Directorate Risk Register.
<b>Health and Care Standards</b>	This report supports and/or takes into account the <a href="#">Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales</a> Quality Themes  Theme 2 - Safe Care Choose an item. Choose an item.
<b>Financial implications</b>	There are no financial implications
<b>People implications</b>	There are no people implications

## **1. Purpose / situation**

To update the Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee on progress of agreed actions following the independent review into the response to the outbreak of Tuberculosis (TB) centred on Llwynhendy, Carmarthenshire.

## **2. Background**

In August 2019 Public Health Wales (PHW), jointly with Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) commissioned an external review of the Llywnhendy Tuberculosis (TB) outbreak and the management of the outbreak with an aim to inform the approach to the management of TB disease in Wales.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic a joint decision was taken in 2020 to pause the review. Subsequently, in 2021 the review was resumed.

In August 2021, Professor Mike Morgan was appointed as chair of the external review panel and the review formally commissioned. The final report was issued by the review panel on 2nd December 2022.

Following publication of the final report a PHW TB action plan was developed with the Health Protection and Screening Services Directorate and presented to and approved by the Public Health Wales Board. A similar action plan has been developed by HDUHB, which is overseen by their board.

This report provides an update on progress of the agreed PHW TB action plan.

## **3. Description/Assessment**

The external review report made seven recommendations, including one directly to HDUHB and two to Welsh Government (WG). The main summary update for QSIC is that all recommendations are progressing and there are no risks to report.

The below table shows the review recommendation, agreed actions between PHW and HDUHB, the agreed target date and update on progress to meet the recommendation.

Recommendation	Action	By When & Progress Update
<p>The outbreak has not yet concluded and the high level of latent TB infection in the population implies further risk. This risk is heightened because the active disease in this population is predominantly pulmonary and therefore more infectious. Although the level of active TB infection is low in West Wales, delayed presentation in unrecognised cases may lead to further outbreaks and deaths. The level of awareness amongst the public and their health care professionals must be therefore increased and maintained. This also applies to trainee health professionals.</p>	<p>PHW will continue to work with other partners to improve awareness of TB amongst the public and healthcare Professionals, particularly with Primary Care Services in affected areas, including trainees, drawing on input from clinicians, public health specialists, communications specialists and behavioural scientists, amongst others.</p>	<p>June 2023</p> <p>The TB elimination strategic action plan has been developed with input from TB clinicians, behavioural science experts and inclusion health teams.</p> <p>In relation to raising awareness of TB it includes the following recommendations:</p> <p>All HBs to ensure that clinical staff have completed the Wales Institute of Clinical Science and technology (ICST) TB training.</p> <p>A multiagency partnership will work with local authorities, communities and third sector organisations to raise awareness and improve health education regarding screening for latent TB infection.</p> <p>HBs in collaboration with PHW will also work to raise awareness and tackle stigma among populations at high risk of TB and who could self-present to health services.</p> <p>As part of monitoring towards TB elimination HBs will be asked to</p>

		<p>provide an annual update on completion of TB training and collaborative activities undertaken to raise awareness.</p> <p>The All-Wales TB Group (AWTBG) will work with PHW Comms to promote the launch of the TB elimination action plan. It is proposed that this is launched to coincide with World TB Day in March 2024.</p>
<p>Any future outbreaks should be overseen by PHW from the outset with a TB -specific standard operating procedure for the conduct and recording of outbreak management. The current SOP and OCT policy needs to be updated in this respect. The latter needs to be developed alongside modern data analysis and WGS typing so that outbreaks are identified and contained. Comprehensive contact networks of all cases should be recorded electronically and plotted with social network analyses undertaken to ensure links between cases are uncovered quickly and easily.</p>	<p>PHW will work with HD UHB and other key partners to create a Standard Operating Procedure and updated OCT policy for the management of TB outbreaks and incidents. PHW will work with HDUHB and other partners to develop an SOP that is TB-specific and makes references to the generic outbreak control plan and procedures on data management, network analysis and diagnostics (including whole genome sequencing). It will also include the development of a revised methodology for managing contact networks and analyses to ensure links between cases</p>	<p>A specific TB OCT policy is not in place for PHW. However, part of this work falls under the review of the Outbreak Control Plan for Wales.</p> <p>The outbreak control plan for Wales is being revised and the learnings from the external review have been taken on board and will reflect in the next version, which is due towards the end of this calendar year.</p>

	are uncovered quickly and easily.	
Funding should be identifiable ahead of time for outbreaks of infectious diseases so that such outbreaks can be managed in a timely and effective manner without the need for time-wasting discussion.	PHW will advocate for future revisions to the All Wales Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan to consider how financial resourcing is agreed amongst partners.	<p>July 2023</p> <p>The outbreak control plan for Wales is being revised and the learnings from the external review have been taken on board and will reflect in the next version, which is due towards the end of this calendar year.</p> <p>In addition to the work being undertaken with the All Wales Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan the All Wales TB Group has recommended to WG that they consider commissioning a cost-effective and targeted mobile outreach and intervention (informed by proven models such as 'Find and Treat' in London) including specific services for active case finding for pulmonary TB among inclusion health groups including people supported by justice and probation services, homeless people and those engaged with substance misuse service</p> <p>Such a service may also be utilised to support TB screening exercises and</p>

		case finding as part of cluster or incident/outbreak management and control as well as provision of screening for other diseases (e.g blood borne viruses) where appropriate.
The local TB service has improved but still has inadequacies. In particular, cross-cover arrangements need to be in place for annual, sick and study leave in order to prevent delays in treatment. Pharmacy and administrative support needs improvement. Succession planning for the TB Specialist Nurse also needs to be clear	HD UHB to lead	Currently a working group led by Hywel Dda UHB Local Public Health Team is making progress. The current position of very few cases suggests current measures are probably effective given ill people present to clinical care. The issue of GPs missing cases or delayed diagnosis in young people and non-smokers is not limited to Hywel Dda UHB or Wales and wider system review in relation to workforce will be required.
At a national level, the Cohort Review Programme needs to be supported with adequate funding for each contributing health board.	PHW and HDUHB in collaboration with other key partners will work with Welsh Government and other health boards to agree the framework for ensuring the Cohort Review Programme is a central part of a TB strategy to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in Wales.  PHW will continue to support the cohort	Cohort review is the systematic review of all notified TB cases in a 3-4-month period, to ascertain outcomes for these patients and to facilitate learning for the multi-disciplinary team attending the cohort review meetings.  The AWTBG has recommended that an All-Wales TB Nurse Consultant post is created whose role would be to oversee and

	<p>review through provision of epidemiological data and health protection input.</p>	<p>strengthen the Cohort review process.</p> <p>There is a 10-year evaluation of the Cohort Review in progress and outcomes from this evaluation will allow further recommendations to be identified to improve Cohort review.</p> <p>Changes are being made to the process of identification of cases for Cohort review to ensure that cases that need further review are resubmitted.</p> <p>Cohort review will also include additional details on the identification and outcomes of contact tracing.</p> <p>Part of the work of the AWTBG will be to help to develop a TB service specification as recommended in the TB elimination action plan</p>
<p>Welsh Government should support both the Cohort Review Programme and the proposal for a National Service Specification that includes the development of a TB pathway to tackle delayed diagnosis (e.g. investigating cough lasting longer than three weeks).</p>	<p>PHW and HDUHB in collaboration with other key partners will work with Welsh Government to agree the framework for ensuring that a national service specification for TB is a central part of a TB strategy to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in Wales.</p>	<p>Part of the work of the AWTBG will be to help to develop a TB service specification as recommended in the TB elimination action plan.</p> <p>Welsh Government are currently exploring funding for the Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) programme for TB which would enable</p>

		<p>evaluation of TB services across Wales and support the development of a comprehensive service specification.</p>
<p>Wales does not seem to be properly prepared for the challenges of new migrants, refugees, and the occurrence of future drug resistance. These factors should be included in a future TB plan supported and funded by Welsh Government.</p>	<p>PHW and HDUHB in collaboration with other key partners will work with Welsh Government and other health boards to agree the framework for a TB strategy and action plan to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in Wales, including addressing the needs of under-served populations. Owing to the migratory nature of some underserved groups and recognising that TB does not respect administrative borders, we will work across the four nations in the UK to ensure any strategy complements those in other nations.</p>	<p>PHW have supported WG in the development of a national health pathways for Asylum Seekers and Refugees which incorporates standards for TB screening. PHW have also supported WG to develop guidance for NHS and private healthcare settings on the health clearance requirements for staff in relation to TB with a particular emphasis on those staff from countries of high incidence.</p> <p>PHW have supported the publication of an evidence review of TB screening in Wales among the Ukraine refugee population (the only country to do so)</p> <p>There are additionally a number of recommendations in the TB elimination action plan with regards to screening of those at higher risk of TB including the development of a business case for the resources required to implement screening for</p>

		active and latent disease for all new entrants from high prevalence countries as this may require additional funding.
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Future assurance to the Committee will be provided by further progress updates against the action plan.

### 3.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The progress outlined in the action plan has been completed with due consideration of the five ways of working, as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act, in the following ways:



Hirdymor

Long Term

*Even though Wales has a low prevalence of TB, a long term commitment is necessary to minimise the threat from the infection.*



Atal

Prevention

*Prevention is important to minimise the risk of transmission. Measures include surveillance and screening supported by strategic plans and policies.*



Integreiddio

Integration

*The response to this outbreak demonstrates the need for a joined-up health protection system in Wales that includes national and local clinical and public health services. This will be met through the development of the Health Protection response system for Wales*



Cydweithio

Collaboration

Effective prevention and treatment of TB requires close collaboration between public health protection services, local health board TB clinical services and local authority public protection services.



Cynnwys

Involvement

*The follow up to this paper will involve senior health protection and microbiology staff together with staff from the local health board*

*and Welsh Government. An external review will involve senior public health and respiratory medicine experts commissioned from outside Public Health Wales and the health board*

#### **4. Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to:

- Take **assurance** on the progress of actions contained within the approved PHW TB Action Plan following the external review of the management of the TB outbreak in Llwynhendy, Carmarthenshire.