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Wales

## Health Improvement Division

### Health Promoting Schools Programme Board (HPSPB)

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Senior Responsible Officer (SRO):** Lex Gainsbury, Consultant in Public Health

**Project Manager:** Gemma Cox, Principal Public Health Practitioner

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- Health Promoting Schools Programme Board members

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**Purpose of document:**

To provide terms of reference for the Health Promoting Schools Programme Board (HPSPB).

## 1. Introduction

A health promoting school is defined as 'a school that is constantly strengthening its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working'.<sup>1</sup> The concept of health-promoting schools embodies a whole-school approach to promoting health and educational achievement in school communities by using the organisational potential of schools to foster the physical, social-emotional and psychological conditions for health as well as for positive education outcomes. Health promoting schools involve learners, parents and carers, staff and governors all working together as a school community to improve well-being based on a shared understanding of the needs of their school community.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation.

The ambition to support schools to be health promoting in Wales has been delivered through the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS) since its launch in 1999, now renamed the Welsh Network of Health and Well-being Promoting Schools (WNHWPS). Improvement work is currently underway to maximise the potential of the programme in the current education and health policy and practice context which includes Education reform in Wales, implementation of the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Well-being Welsh Government Statutory Framework and the World Health Organisation's publication of [global standards and education for health promoting schools](#).

The WNHWPS is supported by a partnership with the School Health Research Network (SHRN) which enables schools and systems to use data to understand the health and well-being needs of school-aged children in Wales as well as take evidence-based action to promote health and well-being through local practices and national policy. Collectively the two programmes work jointly to maximise the opportunities of schools to promote and protect the health and well-being of the whole school community using a whole school approach.

## 2. Purpose and scope

The purpose of the Health Promoting Schools Programme Board (HPSPB) is to support the development of the WNHWPS and SHRN through active engagement with strategic partners across sectors.

The HPSPB provides oversight to both delivery and strategic improvement programmes, supporting the Healthy Education Settings Programme team of Public Health Wales (PHW) in identifying strategic priorities and decision-making.

## 3. Objectives

The HPSPB supports the strategic development of the WNHWPS and the School Health Research Network by:

- providing strategic advice relating to education and health policy to ensure the goals of the WNHWPS and SHRN remain relevant and consistent with policy direction.
- identifying opportunities for joint working or programme alignment to achieve shared goals and objectives.
- overseeing PHW's programme of work to support implementation of the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing including integration of support into the WNHWPS Programme.
- receiving reports on the implementation of the WNHWPS, School Environment Questionnaire and Student Health and Well-being Surveys and making recommendations for improvement as required.

- overseeing the implementation of the WNHWS improvement programme, guiding the approach and reviewing progress.
- advising on the future development of SHRN and PHW Healthy Education Settings programmes.
- supporting effective communication and engagement with relevant stakeholders, including to members' sectors or organisations.
- providing a feedback loop between partners, systems and the programmes, including to and from regional governance structures.
- ensuring the programmes follow the five ways of working within the Future Generations Act, to support the achievement of partners' well-being goals and ensure that their contribution to these goals is appropriately articulated.
- advising on the development of mechanisms to assess and report on impact.

#### **4. Membership**

Membership of the HPSPB includes representation from the health and education sectors in Wales, for the rights of children and young people, and from education support and government agencies. Current members are listed below (Appendix 1).

#### **5. Accountability and reporting**

The HPSPB is chaired jointly by the Director of Health Improvement, Public Health Wales and the Director of DECIPHer with reporting through them to the Public Health Wales Executive and Board and the SHRN Advisory Board.

The work of the group may also from time-to-time report to other working groups and strategic partnerships where the work of the programmes can contribute.

#### **6. Administration**

The work of the Programme Board is supported by Public Health Wales staff:

- Jenny Burns, Programme Manager
- Gemma Cox, Principal Public Health Practitioner
- Josh Morgan, Programme Support Officer
- Sarah Morrison, Programme Manager

All agenda items and supporting papers must be submitted two weeks before the meeting for the Chair's approval. The agenda and supporting papers are sent to members one week before the meeting. Minutes are agreed and circulated to members within two weeks of the meeting. Draft minutes are disposed of as soon as the final version is approved (normally after the next meeting of the HPSPB). Minutes from the HPSPB are retained

corporately in electronic format for 2 years, after which time they will be destroyed under confidential conditions.

## **7. Meetings**

The HPSPB meets as often as required, and not more frequently than four times a year.

Access requirements including language preference are recorded and delivered for each meeting.

Meetings are held virtually to facilitate attendance from across Wales. From time-to-time in-person meetings may be held for developmental purposes.

**Appendix 1****Membership of the Health Promoting Schools Programme Board  
(November 2023)**

## Children and young people's rights

- Kirrin Spiby-Davidson, Policy Advisor, Children's Commissioner Office

## Health

- Julie Bishop, Director of Health Improvement, Public Health Wales (Co-Chair)
- Marc Davies, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Swansea Bay Public Health Team (representing Directors of Public Health)
- Lorna Bennett, Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Wales
- Victoria Kiernan, Lead Nurse School Nursing Service & Looked After Children, Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Nathan Lester, Head of Observatory Analytical Team
- Emily van de Venter, Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Wales
- Sarah Williamson, Policy and Public Affairs Manager Wales, RCPCH Wales

## Education leadership

- Patrick Brunnock, Deputy Head Teacher, Corpus Christi High School
- Geraint Davies, Acting Head of Education, Denbighshire County Council
- Judith Edwards, Headteacher, Abercanaid Community School
- Sian Evans, Headteacher, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan Primary School
- Gwyn Owen, Headteacher, Canolfan Addysg Conwy
- Steven Richards-Downes, Director for Children and Schools / Chief Education Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council
- Michael Tate, Assistant Director, Education & Lifelong Learning, Cardiff Council
- Lisa Thomas, Headteacher, Georgetown Primary School

## Education support

- Adelaide Dunn, Assistant Director (Health, Wellbeing and Equity), Education Achievement Service (South East)
- Aranwen Morgans-Thomas, Inspector of Education and Training, His Majesty's Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn)
- Simon Murphy, Professor in Social Interventions and Health, Director DECIPHer and Lead for the Schools Health Research Network, Cardiff University (Co-Chair)

## Welsh Government

- Nicola Edwards, Equity in Education Division
- Emily Finney, Head of Healthy and Active Branch
- Carys Pugh-D'Auria, Health and Wellbeing Curriculum Reform
- Chris Roberts, Deputy Chief Social Research Officer

## Welsh Local Government Association

- Tim Opie, Lifelong Learning Policy Officer (Youth)