



Cyfarfod a dyddiad: Meeting and date:	Health Board 15 July 2021						
Cyhoeddus neu Breifat: Public or Private:	Public						
Teitl yr Adroddiad Report Title:	Chief Executive's report						
Cyfarwyddwr Cyfrifol: Responsible Director:	Jo Whitehead, Chief Executive						
Awdur yr Adroddiad Report Author:	Louise Brereton, Board Secretary						
Craffu blaenorol: Prior Scrutiny:	Jo Whitehead, Chief Executive						
Atodiadau Appendices:	Appendix 1 : Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee Chair's assurance report from 11.5.21 Appendix 2 : The NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Committee Chair's assurance report from 20.5.21						
Argymhelliad / Recommendation:							
That the Health Board notes the report of the Chief Executive.							
Please tick as appropriate (note the Chair of the meeting will review and may determine the document should be viewed under a different category)							
Ar gyfer penderfyniad /cymeradwyaeth For Decision/ Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ar gyfer Trafodaeth For Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ar gyfer sicrwydd For Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Er gwybodaeth For Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Y/N to indicate whether the Equality/SED duty is applicable							N
Sefyllfa / Situation:							
The purpose of this report is to keep the Board up to date with key issues affecting the organisation and highlights topical areas of interest to the Board. A number of issues raised within this report feature more prominently within reports of the Executive Directors as part of the Board's public business.							
Cefndir / Background:							
This report seeks to update Board members on the activities, engagements and key meetings undertaken by the new Chief Executive during induction and an overview of local and national developments of interest.							
Asesiad / Assessment & Analysis							

Chief Executive's meetings and events

Over the last couple of months, I have continued to meet and engage with colleagues and other stakeholders. In May, Mark Polin and I attended the unveiling of the Awyr Las charity commissioned artwork at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. This is a really remarkable piece of artwork seeking to acknowledge the huge efforts of all BCU colleagues throughout the Covid 19 pandemic. We also went along to Ty Doctor in Nefyn and enjoyed meeting the practice team. I also joined some virtual workforce and organisational development session as part of our Mewn Undod Mae Nerth/Stronger Together approach which is progressing at pace and is enabling some dedicated reflection time for colleagues to consider what they see, feel and experience as part of the organisation.

In June, Mark and I visited Wockhardt UK Ltd in Wrexham who have played a leading role in the production of Covid 19 vaccinations. I also recently visited our Acute Medical Unit (AMU) Clinical Support Workers to hear about their support roles and in particular how important these have been to us in managing the impact of Covid 19. More recently, I went along to Roseneath Medical Practice in Buckley and heard about their role in the vaccination programme in the north-east of the patch as well as all of their usual services. Lastly, I was very interested to receive a tour of the Ysbyty Gwynedd Radiology Department and to meet Dr Kakali Mitra.

We have also had the pleasure in hosting two ministerial visits in the last few weeks. We were delighted to welcome Eluned Morgan, Minister for Health and Social Services to North Wales on Friday 18 June where she met colleagues from Wrexham ophthalmology services, vascular and planned care services in addition to a visit to Plas Madoc vaccination centre. On Wednesday 30 June, Lynne Neagle, Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing joined us at the North Wales Adolescent Service (NWAS) unit in Abergele for a tour of the unit and met with colleagues and young people and later visited 'ICAN' in Flint.

Following the recent Senedd elections, we continue to meet our local incumbent and new Senedd Members, along with Members of Parliament (MPs) to keep them informed of service delivery, plans and to discuss any live issues.

Local updates

- **Management of COVID-19 Pressures**

At the time of writing, the UK is in the pre-peak stage of a third wave involving the Covid 19 delta variant and on the 18 June 2021, the First Minister announced that Wales was in the early stages of a third wave of COVID-19 infection. All North Wales counties have seen an increase in community infection rates over the last few weeks, with evidence of community transmission of the virus evident, and North Wales incidence rates exceeding the all Wales average. The repeated experience of the last fifteen months has been that a rise in community transmission rates has been associated with a rise in hospital admissions and nosocomial spread of COVID-19. While we hope this association has been weakened by vaccination, we continue to be vigilant in our preparedness for any future surge and in maintaining our systems to protect hospitals. In addition to the emergence of the third wave of COVID-19 infections, we are also now experiencing a surge in other respiratory viruses and there is potential for this to increase above usual seasonal rates. A further report on the Health Board's ongoing response to COVID-19 pressures is included on the Public Board agenda which discusses this and the ongoing vaccination programme further. I continue to extend my personal thanks to all staff at BCUHB for their ongoing work to keep our communities and colleagues safe.

- **North Wales Medical & Health Sciences School**

Following the submission of a Strategic Outline Case in July 2020, a Welsh Government Task & Finish Group chaired by Professor Elizabeth Treasure was set up last autumn to progress recommendations for Medical & Health Sciences School capacity on an all Wales basis. The group has membership from across Wales and includes the Chair and Chief Executive of BCUHB and Vice Chancellor of Bangor University. This work continues pace in Phase 2 with an objective of achieving final proposals to the Minister for Health and Social Care by the end of July 2021.

- **NHS 111- North Wales launch**

NHS 111 launched in North Wales on 22 June 2021. This enables patients in North Wales to be able to call 111 for free access to urgent out-of-hours medical care and round-the-clock health support and guidance. Supported by the national team, the local launch involved a significant piece of awareness raising including radio coverage, press releases, an online toolkit with resources for partners and the public, display materials circulated to all hospital sites, GP and community pharmacies, and information for all staff on the BCUHB intranet.

- **PROMs-led Virtual Orthopaedic Follow-Up Model**

Wrexham Maelor Hospital have recently bid for a Health Service Journal award in respect of their local PROMs-led Virtual Follow-Up Pathway. This is a project which uses 'Oxford Hip and Knee scores' and x-ray to determine the clinical need for face-to-face follow-up. This was a pathway which was designed by our clinical team in Wrexham and implemented by the local Hospital Management Team. The project commenced last year and has found that 90% of follow-up hip and knee patients do not need further face-to-face consultation after their immediate 6-12 week wound check and can be virtually monitored or discharged. The level of activity undertaken in a virtual PROMs clinic is significantly higher than within a traditional Out Patient Department (OPD) clinic with increased value for money as a result.

- **HEIW (Health Education & Improvement Wales) Education Commissioning and Training Plan 2021/22**

Following submission of the HEIW 2021/22 Education Commissioning and Training Plan, it was confirmed by the Minister for Health and Social Services on the 7th December 2020 that funding would be provided to create additional medical training placements across Wales starting in August 2021, alongside increased funding for health professional education and training in other areas. Over the past 6 months the HEIW team have been supporting the national recruitment process and working to identify suitable training environments for these additional posts. Due to COVID, the UK recruitment process this year has been delayed but offers have continued to be issued to maximise fill rates across the UK. As part of the allocation of new posts from August 2021 BCUHB will be receiving 11 medical training placements across the region.

- **Armed Forces Covenant – North Wales Veterans Collaborative**

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives. The Queen's Speech in May 2021 set out that the Armed Forces Covenant will be enshrined in law including around the delivery of the care and support from the NHS and Local Authorities. A bid to develop a North Wales Collaborative to respond to the requirements of the Covenant and to provide the very best health and mental health support to Veterans and their families to enable their ongoing valuable contribution to our communities has been made to the Covenant support fund. If successful, the programme would include the appointment of a dedicated lead to represent the voice of Veterans and their families and to ensure the Health Board meets the commitments of the

covenant while creating a Veteran aware exemplar health service that responds to the needs of Veterans and their families. Ian Donnelly, Acute Director at Wrexham Maelor Hospital is leading this submission supported by Prof Arpan Guha, Acting Executive Medical Director and we look forward to the outcome of the submission in due course.

National updates

- **A Fit for the Future Programme for Government – Future Generations Commissioner**
Launched on 24 June, the Future Generations Commissioner, Sophie Howe, has set out the Fit for the Future programme, which seeks to ask Welsh Government to use progressive ideas and to collaborate with under-heard voices in order to help people into the secure and fulfilling work needed for Wales to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme can be found here - [A Fit for the Future Programme for Government – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#)
- **Joint Committee reporting**
 - The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) met on 11 May 2021. The Chair's assurance report is included at appendix 1.
 - The NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Committee (NWSSC) met on 20 May 2021. The Chair's assurance report is included at appendix 2.

Strategy Implications

There are no specific strategy implications within this report.

Options considered

There are no further options for consideration.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications within this report.

Risk Analysis

The risk implications referenced within this report are covered in greater depth by supporting reports on the Public Board agenda.

Legal and Compliance

There are no specific legal and compliance implications within this report.

Impact Assessment

An impact assessment is not required to support this report.