

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)
Approved minutes of the Extraordinary Health Board meeting held in public
on 22 June 2023 at Conference Room, Optic Centre, St Asaph and
via zoom recording

Board Members Present	
Name	Title
Dyfed Edwards	Chair
Karen Balmer	Independent Member
Jason Brannan	Deputy Director of Workforce & Organisational Development
Clare Budden	Independent Member
Gareth Evans	Acting Director of Therapies & Health Science
Andrea Hughes	Interim Director of Finance
Prof Mike Larvin	Independent Member
Dr Nick Lyons	Executive Medical Director/Deputy Chief Executive
Phil Meakin	Interim Board Secretary
Teresa Owen	Executive Director of Public Health
Fon Roberts	Associate Member
Carol Shillabeer	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Chris Stockport	Executive Director of Transformation and Planning
Rhian Watcyn Jones	Independent Member
Gareth Williams	Independent Member
Jane Wild	Associate Member
Angela Wood	Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery

In Attendance	
Richard Coxon	Interim Head of Corporate Affairs (minutes)
Lowri Gwyn	For Translation

Agenda Item	Action
OPENING BUSINESS	
<p>HB23.131 Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence</p> <p>HB23/131.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the Board meeting of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) at the Optic Technology Centre, Wrexham Glyndwr University in St Asaph, Denbighshire. Andrea Hughes, Interim Director of Finance, on secondment from Welsh Government was welcomed to her first Health Board meeting.</p> <p>HB23/131.2 Apologies were received from:</p>	

<p>Gill Harris, Executive Director of Integrated Clinical Delivery Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital Information Officer Helen Stevens-Jones, Director of Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement</p>	
<p>HB23.132 Declarations of Interest on current agenda</p> <p>HB23132.1 There were no declarations of interest made.</p>	
<p>HB23.133 A review of the Declarations of Interest Register and of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality</p> <p>HB23.133.1 The Interim Board Secretary introduced the Declarations of Interest Register which had been circulated to Health Board members. The register included all declarations made by Health Board members for the current financial year. Members were asked to check if they were still correct and to advise of any changes. The register is available to view on the Health Board website.</p> <p>HB23.133.2 The Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery stated that she was a member of the Royal College of Nursing and Fon Roberts, Associate Member stated he was a member of the Association of Director of Social Services Wales. The Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) restated that her substantive employment was with Powys Teaching Health Board.</p> <p>HB23.133.3 The Interim Head of Corporate Affairs to update register.</p> <p>HB23.133.4 It was noted that the Register for Gifts and Hospitality would be sent to the Health Board members and published by the next meeting in July 2023</p> <p>HB23.133.5 The Health Board approved the report.</p>	<p>RC</p>
<p>HB23.134 VOICE OF THE PATIENT AND THE PUBLIC</p>	
<p>HB23.135 Questions from the Public</p> <p>HB23.135.1 The Interim Board Secretary reported that no questions from the public had been pre-submitted and there were no members of the public in attendance who wished to raise any questions.</p>	

HB23.136 STRATEGIC

HB23.137 Annual Plan 2023-24

HB23.137.1 The Interim Chief Executive Officer set the context of the plan explaining that it was a requirement for all Health Boards to develop an Annual Plan. BCUHB been had been given an extension by the Welsh Government to submit its Annual Plan due to the additional considerations of being in Special Measures and the significant financial challenges. The final Annual Plan would be completed over the next week and would be submitted to the Welsh Government on June 30 2023. This was an opportunity for Health Board members to discuss and give feedback on plan. As part of being in Special Measures the Health Board will be receiving an independent review of Planning approach with the objective of further improving the Health Boards capabilities to plan

HB23.137.2 The Executive Director of Transformation, Strategic Planning and Commissioning began the presentation by explaining the statutory requirements on BCUHB. The Health Board is required to agree a three year Integrated Medium Term Plan which is a statutory duty under NHS (Wales) Act 2006, amended by NHS Finance (Wales) Act 2014. The plans must include:

- How we will improve the health of the population
- How we will improve the provision of health care
- Balance over a three-year period
- Address the “Ministerial Priorities” for the coming year, which are set out in annual “Planning Framework” letters

HB23.137.3 BCUHB is unable to meet these requirements for an “approvable Integrated Medium-Term Plan” which means failing on our statutory duty. Welsh Government were informed of this situation in February 2023 and an Annual Plan was requested instead, to be submitted in June 2023.

HB23.137.4 It was noted that the Annual Plan aligned with our partnership planning commitments, including, the Regional Partnership Board Plan and the three north Wales Public Service Board Plans.

HB23.137.5 The population needs assessment takes into account factors such as demographic changes (age); long term conditions profile (diabetes); prevalence of risk factors such as smoking and obesity as well as poverty and deprivation. There is a higher prevalence of these in North Wales compared to the rest of the Wales.

HB23.137.6 There are wider system challenges with social care market fragility. There have also been BCUHB capacity challenges over the last year which are

expected to continue. The extension of three months had given BCUHB the opportunity to incorporate the Special Measures work that is being undertaken.

HB23.137.7 It was noted that other plans and strategies which had informed the Annual Plan included:

- Living Healthier Staying Well Plan
- Quality Strategy
- Clinical Services Strategy
- People Strategy

HB23.137.8 There were eight Strategic Priorities in the plan, Prevention; Primary Care; Planned Care; Urgent and Emergency Care; Cancer; Mental Health, including Learning Disability and Substance Misuse; Women's Services and Children.

HB23.137.9 Mike Larvin Independent Member, joined the meeting at 9:50 due to travel issues and restated he was an employee of Bangor University for Declarations of Interest.

HB23.137.10 It was noted that there is a financial deficit target of £134 million by the end of the financial year. There are risks in the plan but these are mitigated, there are a lot of competing priorities, including the ability to deliver against deficit targets; recruitment challenges and reputational challenges. It was noted that whilst the challenge was ambitious it was also reasonable,

HB23.137.11 Whilst ambitious, the plan alone would not see waiting lists and deficit tackled, but the Board position is one that this is reasonable at this point in time. Further work is underway on trajectories. Further opportunities are being explored with operational teams on efficiencies. A rapid turnaround of feedback is expected from Welsh Government. On approval, the plan will be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis. Planning for next year will start much earlier and a report will be presented to the September Health Board meeting.

HB23.137.12 In response to a question from Fon Roberts on Children Services, the Executive Director of Transformation, Strategic Planning and Commissioning confirmed there is a large amount of work underway to tackle the backlog of neuro-divergent development waitlist. Further detail on this work and the learning disability work could be found in the main document.

HB23.137.13 Gareth Williams acknowledged the amount of work that has gone into the presentation but was disappointed at not being able to review the full

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narrative. He referenced ambulance handover times and accommodation provision for staff.

HB23.137.14 The Interim Chief Executive outlined areas where further improvement work was needed and this included ambulance handovers. The Board understood how important it was to agree a plan in September with partners, staff and stakeholders.

HB23.137.15 Rhian Watcyn Jones thought the report needed clear milestones to understand progress in the plan. The Interim Chief Executive Officer agreed that this would be included in the plan to give delivery confidence. She was confident that executives would know when they could deliver and if needed to move an item to a later quarter. It was noted that cycle one and two of Special Measures outcomes will be reported in the Health Board of September or November

HB23.137.16 Clare Budden agreed that it would be good to see trajectories in the report along with planned progress. Although there had been a lot of focus on prevention there was only one page on finance. She felt uncomfortable approving without seeing the final draft of the plan.

HB23.137.17 The Interim Chief Executive agreed that a further final version of the Annual Plan would be circulated by email to Board Members before submission to Welsh Government providing further opportunity for Board Members to respond with any material issues. She noted that it was highly likely that the Welsh Government will ask us to do further work on the financial deficit figure. The Executive Director of Transformation, Strategic Planning and Commissioning would add trajectories to the report and a final version circulated to Board Members before submission. It was recognised that the trajectories produced are a snapshot in time but they reflect that the Health Board is on an improvement journey

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HB23.137.18 Prof Mike Larvin stated that the mandated national curriculum for trainee doctors now included how to deal with patients challenging behaviours. This enabled them to be confident with patients and discussing behaviours. He thought Glyndwr and Bangor University could work together on this (Aberystwyth University too) as Health Advocates which the Board supported. He also reported that Bangor University was increasing the number of students for dental hygienists and nurses as part of Dental Plan and All Wales Strategy. The Executive Director of Public Health agreed that working with Bangor University on this would be very useful and could discuss further outside the meeting. The Executive Director of Public Health would discuss with Bangor University and report back to the Board.

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HB23.138 Special Measures Change Control Report

HB23.138.1 The Executive Director of Transformation, Strategic Planning and Commissioning introduced the Special Measures Change Control Report which was a minor modification from the last Health Board meeting.

HB23.138.2 He reported that following the Health Board on 25 May 2023, further discussions had taken place between the Interim Executive Director of Finance, the Independent Advisors assigned to Finance, and Welsh Government. This had led to the addition of a fifth deliverable action, with 41 in total, and a re-wording of the existing four deliverable actions. These changes are not considered to be materially different in terms of focus and intent, however they more clearly lay out the specific work required to be undertaken.

HB23.138.3 The Health Board noted that the Special Measures Review Group had approved the change in principle .

HB23.139 Smoke Free Policy

HB23.139.1 The Deputy Director of Workforce and OD introduced the Smoke Free Policy which had been reviewed by the Quality, Safety and Experience Committee on the 20 June 2023. It was noted that the implementation of the policy and the statutory obligations on BCUHB were clearly set out to staff and provided clear direction on their role and responsibilities.

HB23.139.2 The Executive Director of Public Health noted that vaping was a complex area and we are still learning about its effects on population health. It is understood that its use is on the increase among young people and children as young as nine years old. However, it was acknowledged that vaping could help adults give up smoking and prevention of people vaping was more challenging as there were less restrictions but was to be included in policy. The BCUHB Stop Smoking Teams were situated at the entrances to all three hospitals and offered different forms of support in supporting people to stop smoking. Staff were also supported by Occupational Health team in quitting smoking.

HB23.139.3 In discussion, the Health Board agreed it was good to offer support to staff and also to ensure that they do not come into contact with secondary smoke. It was agreed that challenging smokers on BCUHB sites was an issue for staff and leaders have to lead by example. However it was noted that many people do not appreciate being challenged .

HB23.139.4 The Health Board approved the policy.

<p>HB23.140 Quality, Safety and Experience Committee Report from meeting on 19 May 2023</p> <p>HB23.140.1 Rhian Watcyn Jones, Independent Member, introduced the report. . <i>The Committee had met on June 20 2023 with a suggestion to meet monthly going forward together with a revised work plan.</i> It was noted that Clare Budden, Independent Member had now also joined the Committee.</p> <p>HB23.140.2 In discussion, the scope of the Committee was revised with a focus on high level information and reporting and less operational detail. The importance of being assured was key. It was noted that guidance received from the Welsh Government Independent Advisors had been beneficial and supportive.</p> <p>HB23.140.3 The Health Board received the report.</p>	
<p>HB23.141 CLOSING BUSINESS</p>	
<p>HB23.142 Items to Refer to Committees</p> <p>HB23.142.1 The Chair noted that there were no items to refer to Committees.</p>	
<p>HB23.143 Identification of new risks</p> <p>HB23.143.1 The Chair noted that there were no new risks.</p>	
<p>HB23.144 Summary of Private Board Business</p> <p>HB23.144.1 The Interim Board Secretary stated that the Health Board discussed at its last meeting on the 25 May 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiology System Procurement • Report on work with Health and Safety Executive • High value claims for two individual cases 	
<p>HB23.145 Date of Next Meeting – in discussions to move date from 27 July 2023 but will be confirmed in the next few days.</p>	
<p><i>Exclusion of Press and Public for Private Board meeting</i></p>	