

Pharmacy Delivering a Healthier Wales Delivery Board

Thursday, February 9, 2023

1. Welcome & introduction

RPS Wales began the meeting and thanked the previous Chair of the Delivery Board, Darren Hughes, for his hard work and leadership.

The Delivery Board then confirmed the appointment of Chris Martin as its new chair and it was confirmed that RPS Wales would now be commissioned to take over the secretariat role by the Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee.

2. Review of updated terms of reference and ongoing membership of the delivery board

The board reviewed the updated ToRs and highlighted some amendments that were required.

A discussion on ongoing membership and terms of membership followed that sought to identify the right balance of continuity and bringing in a fresh perspective. At the conclusion of the discussion the following was agreed:

- Appointment to the Delivery Board will be for a period of up to 24 months.
- After 12 months, the expectation is there will be an opportunity, if board members wish, to indicate they would like to step down from the Board.
- In this instance, a maximum of 50% of Board members will be able to step down and suitable appointments to the Board will be made to fill such vacancies.

3. Renewed approach to sub-groups aligned to the 4 key themes

The agenda item began with reflections and thoughts shared on the work of the 4 sub groups to date and the different ways of working across the 4 workstreams.

There followed a discussion around the principles and steps needed to ensure effective working within and across all sub-groups. They included:

- Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee membership on each group.
- Cross fertilization across group.
- Regular meetings between sub-group chairs.

Discussing opportunities to chair the sub-groups, board members we're encouraged to put themselves forward and were assured that support and mentorship for those with limited chairing experience would be available via RPS.

4. Workforce Plan update

HEIW representatives provided an update on progress of the pharmacy workforce plan being developed by HEIW that is due to be released for consultation on February 20.

The delivery board were then told of the methodology that is followed when developing workforce plans within HEIW and updated the work on other HEIW led work being undertaken this year.

HEIW representatives concluded by clarifying that the final pharmacy workforce plan will be submitted to the HEIW Board in late May and should hopefully be published early in the summer.

The presentation was followed by a brief discussion around the need for a strategy around consultant pharmacist development. HEIW representatives noted the HEIW perspective that such a plan on consultant pharmacists needs to be informed by the context of a wider pharmacy workforce plan. Therefore a specific plan on consultant pharmacists will follow shortly after publication of the wider workforce plan.

During the discussion on consultant roles, there was also agreement that while it's right that we're developing people first, it's vital that posts are developed for them at pace afterwards. If not, we risk losing those staff that we have developed from Wales.

5.To update the delivery board on the Research Strategy for Wales

The Delivery Board were provided with an an update on the work of Pharmacy Research Wales and plans to publish a refreshes research strategy for pharmacy in Wales for consultation during the summer.

Reflecting on earlier discussions, it was agreed that r&d must be a central consideration in the upcoming consultant pharmacist strategy and considered to be core part of the consultant role going forward.

It was noted that Swansea University's pharmacy department are looking to develop a new research role at some point this year.