

**CYFARFOD BWRDD IECHYD PRIFYSGOLN  
ANEURIN BEVAN/ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
COMMITTEE**

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>VENUE</b>	Microsoft Teams.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Richard Clark, Chair
	Iwan Jones, Vice Chair
	Neil Patrick, Independent Member
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	Helen Sweetland, Independent Member.
	Robert Holcombe, Director of Finance, Procurement and VBHC.
	Hannah Evans, Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Paul Solloway, Director of Digital
	Nicola Prygodzicz, Chief Executive Officer
	Tomos Jones, Audit Wales.
	Dan Davies, Chief Business Officer, to support with agenda item 3.4
	Dafydd Vaughan, Independent Member
	Rani Dash, Director of Corporate Governance

<b>FPC/1702/01</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
<b>FPC/1702/02</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
	Apologies for absence were <b>NOTED</b> .
<b>FPC/1702/03</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
	There were no declarations of interest raised to record.
<b>FPC/1702/04</b>	<b>Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</b>
	The minutes were <b>AGREED</b> as a true and accurate record.
<b>FPC/1702/05</b>	<b>Committee Action Log</b>
	The Committee received the action log and was content with the progress made in relation to completed actions and against any outstanding actions, as set out within the paper.



**Emerging Annual Plan 2024/25, including Performance and Finance**

Hannah Evans (HE), Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships, outlined the Ministerial Priorities and enabling actions against which the plan would be measured.

The Committee noted a high-level forecast for Health Board activity as at the end of March 2026. This included targets within secondary care activity, such as, referrals, follow ups and elective treatments.

The Committee sought clarification on how susceptible the Health Board was to changes made within the assumptions underpinning delivery, and whether the actions highlighted as necessary in order to meet the listed assumptions would take priority over Ministerial priorities.

HE highlighted that the HB was sensitive to changes, and that there was the ability to share with the Committee some sensitivity testing under taken to date.

Robert Holcombe (RH), Director of Finance, Procurement and VBHC, highlighted to the Committee that the efficiency assumptions were a significant priority for service delivery.

The Committee discussed the potential need for two-tier reporting in order to capture priorities based on direct and indirect service impact.

The Committee noted an interest in a comparison between the costs and benefits of having senior doctors on the front of the Emergency department, especially the impact witnessed on reduced waiting times.

Paul Solloway (PS), Director of Digital, highlighted that the Emergency Department digital data set was to be implemented this year which would aid the collection of data in regard to ED waiting times.

HE highlighted target forecasts for ministerial priorities in 2025/26. It was noted that further tracking would be desired by the organisation on-top of ministerial criteria, such as, in regard to the number of ambulances waiting over 1 hour, how many hours were lost after the one hour cut off had elapsed.



The Committee noted that the speciality services Referral to Treatment waiting time remained at 104 weeks. Work would continue into improving the end of year position for the three worst affected areas, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology and General Surgery.

Nicola Prygodzicz (NP), Chief Executive Officer, highlighted that there was potential money being released in order to enable the divisions to continue work on the reduction of waiting times into Quarter 1.

HE provided the Committee with an outline of some of the priority areas within Performance Ambitions 2025/26. It was noted that the slide pack would be circulated with Committee members outside of the meeting for further scrutiny.

**ACTION:** Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships.

Next steps were listed as:

- To note discussions with Welsh Government regarding Quarter 1 additionality.
- First draft of the Annual Plan to be shared with the Board for comments the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- Final draft to be discussed at Board on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

RH provided the Committee with updates regarding the financial forecast for 2025/26.

The Committee noted that the presentation had been distributed to Committee members following the Board Briefing Session on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

RH highlighted that the financial settlement for the Health Board was 1.77% rather than the estimated 3%, as well as the HB receiving conditional funding of £40.5million.

The Committee noted the underlying position had changed from £7million to £19million. This was due to changes such as, high-cost recurrent drugs moved from recurrent for 24/25 to non-recurrent.

The Committee noted that the £2million set aside as built-in cost pressures, included £1million in risk budget, and incorporated a cost outlook for E Harley Street GP practices.



FPC/1702/07

The Committee received an outline of local and national pressures, savings through services and directorates, and the development of route maps to increase efficiency and improvement.

The Committee noted the need for lobbying to Welsh Government to continue to provide financial support for projects which were developed through 111, such as urgent primary care, to avoid these priority schemes being put at risk.

RH concluded that in comparison to other organisations, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board's costs savings plan was an outlier in terms of being the most ambitious. Next steps were noted as to liaise with Executives into initiating more of the strategy to ensure efficient cost saving without influence upon quality care.

The Committee raised the need for increased granularity into plan to deliver savings. It was noted that for the £8million saved to date, a slide pack with a further breakdown could be provided to the Committee outside of the meeting.

**ACTION:** Director of Finance, Procurement and VBHC.

The Committee **NOTED** the contents of the presentation.

### Performance Report

Hannah Evans (HE), Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships provided an update to the Committee. Including:

- Significant progress in Urgent and emergency Care, pathways of care delays.
- Continued weekly escalation oversight.
- Emergency department consultant growth.
- Ahead of trajectory for 104 days targets.
- Mental Health division processed backlog, although need to focus on psychology waiting lists.

The Committee requested to receive an update in regards to consultants starting in the emergency Department.

HE highlighted that the position within the Emergency Department was improved despite winter measures remaining in place after the instigation of critical incident. HE



FPC/1702/08

offered to share the timeline for trajectory of improvement with the Committee by the end of the week.

**ACTION:** Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

### **Update against Performance Management Framework & National Escalation**

Hannah Evans (HE), Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships updated the Committee that the report would summarise the month 6 reviews. Assurance was given that whilst the month 6 reviews were not fully accurate due to winter pressures, the reviews looked at the most up-to-date information for both performance and finance out-turn.

It was noted that escalation levels for the divisions remained the same, presented as within normal arrangements, with Mental Health and Urgent Care being in enhanced Monitoring.

The Committee noted the main challenge faced within Urgent care was to sustain improvements made, which was being scrutinised as a national occurrence. Whereas, Mental Health had made great improvement in regard to performance targets. A conversation was held to discuss a review of Mental Health Performance, and to check that all improvements were successful embedded and in-line with overall patient quality and safety improvement plans.

The Committee noted that the surgical division had challenged their worsening financial position. Conversations had been held into enhanced monitoring of the divisions financial position, with a special budget meeting to be held in regards to escalation within the financial domain.

It was noted that national escalation levels remained unchanged in regard to targeted intervention. The next reviews were scheduled for February and August 2025. It was predicted that the national escalation levels would remain unchanged, subject to the Health Board meeting the current years financial plan, and the financial plan for the following year.

The Committee noted that the next quarterly review meeting with Welsh Government was scheduled to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



FPC/1702/09

The Committee noted that management strategies, such as mitigations, opportunities and reserves had been instigated to manage divisional shortfalls in meeting financial targets. It was highlighted that some progression had already been made within divisions as a result of these measures, however, the Committee noted that some divisions would be unlikely to reach their targets. Deep dives had been commissioned into divisions that had been raised as being outside of the escalation process.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

### **Corporate Information Performance Report**

Dan Davies (DD), Chief Business Officer provided assurance on Freedom of Information requests received under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), handled by the Corporate Information Team.

The Committee noted that the report also satisfied the Information Commissioners requirement for the publication of the Health Boards performance when handling these requests.

The Committee noted that in Quarter 1 and 2 of the 2025/26 financial year, 333 requests were received under the act, and 264 enquiries from Members of the Senedd and Parliament.

It was highlighted that the Health Board aims to respond to enquiries from members of the Senedd or Parliament within 20 working days.

It was highlighted that the highest number of enquiries related to waiting lists within the surgical division.

The Committee noted that a report on Quarter 3 and 4 would be coming to the Committee in June 2025.

The Committee raised the need for a comparison element, such as against a Wales average or Welsh Health Boards, to be included within the report, to provide further understanding of the health boards performance within this area.

DD assured the Committee that the paper due to be presented at the June Committee meeting would include further detailed as it would include an annual summary. It



FPC/1702/10

was agreed that a comparison statistic would be included within the paper being presented at the June meeting.

The Committee requested clarification on how the service responds to enquiries of a differing nature, such as individual patient or group enquires, such as, constituency group.

The Committee noted that for individual patients, subject to identification criteria, information would be able to be tracked through the patient's journey, whereas information related to a group of constituents, would be more contextual in nature.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

### **Monthly Financial Performance Report**

Rob Holcombe (RH), Director of Finance, Procurement and VBHC provided an update on the Health Board's financial position at the end of Month 9. It was highlighted that the HB had a year-to-date deficit of £7.285 million.

The Committee noted receipt of the monetary returns content via email.

The Committee noted that the underlying end-of-year financial deficit for 2024/25 was, £81.4 million. This was revised in November 2024, and adjusted to show an underlying deficit of £14.4 million.

The Committee was assured that figures from GP practices had also been included with the findings.

The Committee raised concern in regard to a stagnation in material improvement shown within the divisions. Assurance was provided that there were only two areas presenting issues, those being surgery and elective care. In elective care the shortfall had arise from the demand witnessed by the Health Board over the winter months, and the need to increase internal solutions for these divisions.

The Committee requested more information on a review into value and sustainability for enhanced care, due to a fluctuation in costs by the division. The Committee raised the potential need for a paper to be presented at a Patient Quality Safety and Outcomes Committee for increased assurance, due to a potential affect into patient care.



	<p>Director of Corporate Governance to be consulted in regard to a potential presentation to be made to PQSO Committee.  <b>ACTION:</b> Director of Corporate Governance.</p> <p>RH assured the Committee that he would circulate slides on the Month 10 position outside of the meeting, for the Committee to note.  <b>ACTION:</b> Director of Finance, Procurement &amp; VBHC.</p> <p>The Committee <b>NOTED</b> the report.</p>
<p><b>FPC/1702/11</b></p>	<p><b>Value and Sustainability Assurance Reporting</b></p> <p>Rob Holcombe (RH), Director of Finance, Procurement and VBHC presented to the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee noted key highlights of the report, such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over performing on savings delivery, which had made it up to £44.2 million.</li> <li>• Ty Gwent Office move had been completed, with a projected saving of £0.5 million for 2025/26.</li> <li>• Life Time Allowance Arbitration with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board successfully achieved savings of £1.5 million above estimates.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee noted that next steps were to develop more saving at divisional level, and to optimise thematic Value and Sustainability Board group mechanisms.</p> <p>The Committee <b>NOTED</b> the report.</p>
<p><b>FPC/1702/12</b></p>	<p><b>Review of Committee Programme of Business 2025/26</b></p> <p>The Committee Programme of Business 2025/26 was provided to the committee for information.</p> <p>The Committee requested for the 2025/26 Forward Work Programme to be circulated at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The Committee Secretariate.</p> <p>The Committee <b>NOTED</b> the report.</p>
<p><b>FPC/1702/13</b></p>	<p><b>Items to be Brought to the Attention of the Board and Other Committees</b></p> <p>None raised.</p>
<p><b>FPC/1702/14</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Urgent Business</b></p>



**FPC/1702/15**

None raised.

**Date of the Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 09.30-12.30.

