

DATE OF MEETING	9th April 2025
VENUE	Microsoft Teams

PRESENT	Penny Jones, Chair
	Paul Deneen, Vice Chair
	Dafydd Vaughn, Independent Member
	Phillip Robson, Vice Chair
IN ATTENDANCE	Leanne Watkins, Chief Operating Officer
	Tracy Daszkiewicz, Director of Public Health
	James Calvert, Medical Director
	Rani Dash, Director of Corporate Governance
	Tracey Partridge-Wilson, Deputy Director of Nursing
	Louise Turner, Divisional Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities
	Rebecca Goode, Head of Operational Transformation
	Sarah Garland, General Manager, CAMHS
	Helen Doodoo, General Manager, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities
	Dr Mark Griffiths, CAMHS Consultant and Clinical Director
	Thomas Jaynes, Governance Support Officer
APOLOGIES	Jennifer Winslade, Director of Nursing

MHLD/0904/01	Welcome and Introductions
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies for absence were noted.
	Declarations of Interest
	There were no Declarations of Interest raised relating to items on the agenda.
MHLD/0904/02	Terms of Reference and Membership



a) Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Committee

Rani Dash (RD), Director of Corporate Governance, introduced the report for information and noted the Committee's Terms of Reference had been updated to include to include Child and Adolescents Mental Health and Learning Disabilities as requested by the Board when the approved the ToR in November 2024.

The Committee was assured the Terms of Reference would be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Committee **NOTED** the Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Committee updated Terms of Reference.

b) Power of Discharge Sub Committee

Rani Dash (RD), Director of Corporate Governance, introduced the report for decision and noted a full review of the current Terms of Reference had been undertaken to ensure clarity on the role of the sub-Committee which was to provide assurance to the Board regarding the exercise of section 23 of the Mental Health Act.

Paul Deneen (PD), Independent Member, acknowledged Rani Dash and the Corporate Governance team's work.

The Committee **APPROVED** the revised Terms of Reference for the Power of Discharge Sub Committee.

MHLD/0904/03

Overview of MH&LD Services and Improvement

Leanne Watkins (LW), Chief Operating Officer, introduced the presentation for discussion and acknowledged the work of the team and the improvement of the service.

Louise Turner (LT), Divisional Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, outlined the role and scope of in-patient and community Mental Health Services within the Health Board and the Committee was assured the service was dedicated to supporting the Welsh Government Strategy. The Committee noted the increased prevalence of Mental Health conditions across different age ranges in Gwent.

The Committee noted the service worked in collaboration with engaged agencies; staff and service users had a long-term



vision for increasing community care and shared care models; the service was continuously raising public awareness across all services and there were community teams, primary mental health services and inpatient settings and specialist services.

The Committee acknowledged the journey of the service over the last 12 to 18 months and noted: the division had experience significant leadership changes and was put under internal oversight to support areas such as incident management, safeguarding, quality, safety, and governance. A structured 30, 60, and 90-day improvement plan was implemented to address the initial areas of concern. The Division had been reporting on the progress of quality, safety, and governance to various committees, including the Executive Committee, the Patient Quality Safety & Outcomes Committee, the Board and IQPD; the Health Board had contributed to the development of a paper for the Welsh Government Quality Delivery Board.

The Committee was assured that phase 2 of the Improvement Plan was underway which focussed on embedding and sustaining actions already taken and developing longer-term actions.

The Committee noted the division had undergone an end-of-year review on 6th June 2024 with the wider Executive Team and was assured progress had been made in a number of areas including, enhanced governance and visible leadership across the division; better processes for learning from deaths, and progress in delivering sustainable improvements in operational delivery. The Committee noted the improvement plan has been concluded, and was assured ongoing actions were being monitored through the Divisional Assurance process.

The Committee noted the division had integrated the Right Care Right Person with the new police and health alliance for mental health crisis management and was assured an improved discharge plan for acute inpatient care was in place. It was also noted that the Disengagement and DNA policy had been updated and was out for review.

The Committee acknowledged areas of progress.



and ongoing challenges of the division which included WCCIS challenges; recruitment and retention and estates.

Penny Jones (PJ), Independent Member, commented on the importance of the Committee understanding fully the Estate issues of the Division. PJ requested sites visits for Independent Members or for the Estates team to present to the Committee.

Action: Chief Operating Officer

Dafydd Vaughan (DV), Independent Member, commented on the WICCIS challenge and noted the importance of raising the issues, risks and staff experience of using the WICCIS system with the Board.

The Committee discussed and noted that Audit Wales would pick this up in their audit review of digital delivery, which would include speaking with staff.

Phillip Robson (PR), Vice Chair, welcomed the progress of the division and assurance on safety in a high-risk service. PR queried the role of Gwent Police and whether it would be appropriate for Gwent Police to attend the Committee for assurance and to build a relationship.

The Committee was assured that the relationship with Gwent Police was maintained through the Gwent Public Services Board. LT further assured the Committee that the Police and the Division had a positive strategic partnership.

Paul Deneen (PD), Independent Member, queried the safety of staff in the division and the incorporation of body cameras in the policies of the Health Board. The Committee noted a report had been submitted to the People and Culture Committee, which would be shared for the Committee's awareness and could form part of the Committee's workplan.

Action: Committee Secretariat/Director of Corporate Governance.

PD requested staff voices and views of the division to be part of the Committee's work plan.

Action: Director of Corporate Governance.

LT outlined the Improvement Journey to the Committee and noted in particular IMTP priorities that included: models of



care, digital transformation, workforce, partnerships, quality improvement and ministerial priorities.

The Committee discussed the assurance from the impact of special measures on the division and the Committee was assured on the improvement in organisational development and professional relationships.

The Committee received the infrastructure of the division and noted Mental Health, Older Adult Mental Health and Learning Disability Units, crisis services available in Gwent to prevent admission. The Committee was assured the Health Board worked in conjunction with Gwent Local Authorities on the Regional Partnership Board on housing services.

PD queried the outcomes on calls to the 111 option 2 facilities. The Committee requested a deep dive and further information to provide detail and outcomes.

Action: Chief Operating Officer

Helen Dodoo (HD), General Manager, presented the strategy of the division and the Committee was assured the service had undertaken substantial reviews into all four directorate areas, including engagement and feedback from individual patients, carers and Directorate staff members. The Committee noted the Directorate was developing a SMART CARE model that aligned to the strategic context and aims to ensure a high quality, safe, sustainable suite of services.

HD outlined the challenges for the PCMHSS Directorate which included: maintaining performance against part 1 targets of the Mental Health Measure; Maintain and improve efficiencies in flow; Reduce variation in services across boroughs, to ensure that equitable access is provided across the Health Board area; A need to support care in communities and closer to home; The ability to recognise and predict workforce challenges across professions and the need to continue to review our model of service delivery by developing the more sustainable SMART CARE service model for the future.

HD outlined the division's Gwent Integrated Autism Service and Adult ADHD Service and the Committee discussed the significant increase in demand on both services.



The Committee noted the Learning Disabilities Directorate Strategy and an received an overview of the Older Adult Mental Health Service.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

ABUHB Mental Health Act Monitoring Report and HIW Mental Health Act Monitoring Annual Report

The Committee **NOTED** the ABUHB Mental Health Act Monitoring Report had been received by the PQSOC Committee and **NOTED** the report for information.

The Committee noted the HIW Annual Report and noted the response from the Health Board would come to the next Committee meeting for consideration and approval.

Action: Director of Corporate Governance/Committee Secretariat

Overview of CAMHS Service

Leanne Watkins (LW), Chief Operating Officer, introduced the item for discussion and gave a presentation which set out improvements in the service and what the team has achieved and delivered.

Dr Mark Griffiths (MG), CAMHS Consultant & Clinical Director, noted the timeline of improvement of the service and core values and philosophy of the division.

MG outlined key achievements of the CAMHS service delivered in 2024-2025 which included: achievement of part 1B RTT waiting list target; achievement of ND RTT waiting list target alongside innovative and Wales leading transformation of assessment pathway; continued improvement to the country's most well developed single point of access system; UK wide benchmarking had shown that the division provided 26/27 elements of an idealised CAMHS offer and the only element missing was a specific BAME access which was being worked on; acknowledged Wales leads for a range of service areas and opening of Ty Fforest an innovative therapy space.

MG assured the Committee on improvement on performance indicators amidst increasing demand but conceded there were hidden internal waits. The Committee was assured these were



	<p>being worked on and monitored by the division. MG noted the reach of the division had increased from 3% in 2013 to over 20% in 2024.</p> <p>The Committee was assured that there was a strong focus in all teams on preventative, early help/support and timely identification of problems and rapid initiation of interventions. The Committee was further assured by the successes and challenges of all the teams.</p> <p>The Committee was assured by the work of this specialist area of the division which was governed by two organising frameworks and the success and challenges of the teams and the positive impact of the team on prevention of admissions to paediatric beds and A&E attendances.</p> <p>The Committee noted future opportunities for the division which included a communication strategy and a CAMHS specific webpage; digital support for development of a dashboard, RPA and a patient journey tracker; staff training; accommodation solutions for more clinical spaces; pre and post diagnostic Neurodevelopment resources and the shift to a single point of access for support for neurodiversity.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledged the hard work, efforts and significant progress of the division.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the presentation.</p>
	<p>Emerging Priority Areas for the Committee’s Forward Work Plan</p> <p>The Committee had a discussion and noted priority areas that had emerged out of the meeting for forward planning.</p>
<p>MHLD/0904/04</p>	<p>Power of Discharge Sub-Committee Minutes 19th November 2024</p> <p>The Committee NOTED for information.</p>
	<p>Former Minutes and Action Log of the Mental health Act Monitoring Committee held on 4th June 2024</p> <p>The Committee NOTED for information.</p>



MHLD/0904/05

Items to be Brought to the Attention of the Board and Other Committees

None raised.

Any Other Urgent Business

The Committee agreed for two in person meetings per annual cycle.

Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th June 2025, 1.30pm to 4.30pm

