



# **Partnerships, Population Health and Planning Committee**

## **Terms of Reference – 2022/23**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 2 of the Standing Orders of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (referred to throughout this document as 'ABUHB, the Board' or the 'Health Board') provides that:

*"The Board may and, where directed by the Welsh Government must, appoint Committees of the Health Board either to undertake specific functions on the Board's behalf or to provide advice and assurance to the Board in the exercise of its functions. The Board's commitment to openness and transparency in the conduct of its business extends equally to the work carried out on its behalf by committees".*

- 1.2 In-line with Standing Orders and the Board's Scheme of Delegation and Reservation of Powers, the Health Board has established a committee to be known as the **Partnerships, Population Health and Planning Committee** (referred to throughout this document as 'the Committee'). The Terms of Reference and operating arrangements set by the Board in respect of this committee are set out below.
- 1.3 The scope of the Committee extends to all areas of Partnership Working, Population Health and Planning across the full breadth of the Health Board's responsibilities.
- 1.4 This Committee will not be responsible for the development of strategy, which is a collective Board responsibility and therefore reserved for full Board discussions.

## 2. PURPOSE

### 2.1 ADVICE

The Committee will provide accurate, evidence based (where possible) and timely advice to the Board and its committees in respect of the development of the following matters consistent with the Board's overall strategic direction:

- a. strategy, strategic frameworks and plans for the delivery of high quality and safe services, consistent with the board's overall strategic direction;
- b. business cases and service planning proposals;
- c. the alignment of supporting and enabling strategies, including workforce, capital, estates and digital;
- d. the implications for service planning arising from strategies and plans developed through the Joint Committees of the Board or other strategic partnerships, collaborations or working arrangements approved by the Board; and

- e. the Health Board's priorities and plans to improve population health and wellbeing.

## 2.2 **ASSURANCE**

In respect of the achievement of the Boards' strategic aims, objectives and priorities, the Committee will seek assurances in:

- a. the robustness of the Health Board's approach, systems and processes for developing strategies and plans, including those developed in partnership;
- b. plans and arrangements for the following matters are adequate, effective and robust and achieving intended outcomes:
  - (i) Joint committee and partnership planning;
  - (ii) Engagement and communication; and
  - (iii) Civil Contingencies and Business Continuity;
- c. that partnership governance and partnership working is effective and successful; and
- d. that those arrangements in place to improve population health and wellbeing are robust and effective and delivering intended outcomes.

## 3. **DELEGATED POWERS AND AUTHORITY**

- 3.1 With regard to specific powers delegated to it by the Board, the Committee will:

### **a) Partnership Working**

- i. consider the development of strategies and plans developed in partnership with key strategic partners
- ii. monitor work undertaken with partner organisations and stakeholders to influence the provision of services to meet current and future population need
- iii. seek assurance that partnership governance and partnership working is effective and successful.

### **b) Population Health**

- i. consider population health and wellbeing assessments and other key information that underpins the strategic planning process to ensure the robustness and best fit of developing plans;
- ii. consider plans for whole-system pathway development and re-design;
- iii. seek assurance on plans, systems and processes to deliver health improvement and increase health equity;
- iv. seek assurance on the work of the Health Board to reduce avoidable health inequalities.

### **a) Strategic Planning**

- a. Seek assurance that the health board's Planning arrangements are robust and fit for purpose, including the approach to developing the Integrated Medium-Term Plan and Annual Priorities;
  - b. Seek assurance that the Health board Has sufficient enabling plans to support the achievement of strategic objectives;
  - c. Seek assurance that the Health Board's arrangements for engagement and consultation in respect of service change matters are robust and effective;
  - d. Seek assurance that national and regional planning guidance is used to inform the development of strategic plans;
  - e. Seek assurance on the process for the development of the Board's Capital Discretionary Programme and Capital Business Cases;
  - f. Seek assurance that the Health Board's Commissioning Plans robust and fit for purpose;
  - g. Seek assurance on the effectiveness of the Health Board's Civil Contingency Plans and Major Incident Planning;
  - h. Seek assurance that plans respond to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015; and
  - i. Seek assurance that the Health Board's plans give due regard to the Socio-economic Duty for Wales.
- 3.2 The Committee will consider and recommend to the Board for approval those policies reserved for the Board and delegated to this Committee for review, in-line with the Board's Policy Management Framework and Scheme of Delegation and Reservation of Powers.
- 3.3 The Committee will seek assurances on the management of strategic risks delegated to the Committee by the Board, via the Corporate Risk Register.

### **Authority**

- 3.4 The Committee is authorised by the Board to investigate or have investigated any activity within its terms of reference. In doing so, the Committee shall have the right to inspect any books, records or documents of the Health Board relevant to the Committee's remit and ensuring patient/client and staff confidentiality, as appropriate.

The Committee may seek any relevant information from any:

- employee (and all employees are directed to cooperate with any reasonable request made by the Committee); and
- any other committee, sub committee or group set up by the Board to assist it in the delivery of its functions.

- 3.5 The Committee is authorised by the Board to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers it necessary (subject to the Board's procurement, budgetary and any other applicable standing requirements).

### **Access**

- 3.6 The Head of Internal Audit shall have unrestricted and confidential access to the Chair of the Committee.
- 3.7 The Chair of the Committee shall have reasonable access to Executive Directors and other relevant senior staff.

### **Sub Committees**

- 3.8 The Committee may, subject to the approval of the Board, establish sub committees or task and finish groups to carry out on its behalf specific aspects of Committee business.

### **Committee Programme of Work**

- 3.9 Each year the Board will determine the Committee's priorities for its annual programme of work, based on the Board's Assurance Framework and Corporate Risk Register. This approach will ensure that the Committee's focus is directed to the areas of greatest assurance needs. This will therefore mean that these Terms of Reference are provided as a framework for the Committee's annual programme of work and is not an exhaustive list for full coverage. This approach recognises that the Committee's programme of work will be dynamic and flexible to meet the needs of the Board throughout the year.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Members**

- 4.1 Membership will comprise:

Chair	Independent member of the Board
Vice Chair	Independent member of the Board
Members	Independent member of the Board x2

The Committee may also co-opt additional independent 'external' members from outside the organisation to provide specialist skills, knowledge and expertise.

## **Attendees**

4.2 In attendance: The following Executive Directors of the Board will be regular attendees:

- Director of Planning, Performance, Digital & IT
- Director of Public Health & Strategic Partnerships
- Director of Finance, Procurement and VBHC

4.3 By invitation:

The Committee Chair extends an invitation to the ABUHB Chair and Chief Executive to attend committee meetings.

The Committee Chair will extend invitations to attend committee meetings, dependent upon the nature of business, to the following:

- other Executive Directors not listed above;
- other Senior Managers and
- other officials from within or outside the organisation to attend all or part of a meeting to assist it with its discussions on any particular matter.

## **Secretariat**

4.4 The Office of the Director of Corporate Governance will provide secretariat services to the Committee.

## **Member Appointments**

4.5 The membership of the Committee shall be determined by the Board, based on the recommendation of the Chair of ABUHB - taking account of the balance of skills and expertise necessary to deliver the Committee's remit and subject to any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Government.

4.6 Members shall be appointed to hold office for a period of one year at a time, up to a maximum of their term of office. During this time a member may resign or be removed by the Board.

4.7 Terms and conditions of appointment, (including any remuneration and reimbursement) in respect of co-opted independent external members are determined by the Board, based upon the recommendation of the Chair of ABUHB.

## Support to Committee Members

- 4.8 The Director of Corporate Governance, on behalf of the Committee Chair, shall:
- arrange the provision of advice and support to committee members on any aspect related to the conduct of their role; and
  - ensure the provision of a programme of development for committee members as part of the Board's overall Development Programme.

## 5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Quorum

- 5.1 At least **three** members must be present to ensure the quorum of the Committee, one of whom should be the Committee Chair or Vice Chair.
- 5.2 Where members are unable to attend a meeting and there is a likelihood that the Committee will not be quorate, the Chair can invite another independent member of the board to become a temporary member of the Committee.

### Frequency of Meetings

- 5.3 The Chair of the Committee shall determine the timing and frequency of meetings, which shall be held no less than **three times yearly**, and in line with the Health Board's annual plan of Board Business.
- 5.4 The Chair of the Committee may call additional meetings if urgent business is required to be taken forward between scheduled meetings.

### Openness and Transparency

- 5.5 Section 3.1 of ABUHB Standings Orders confirms the Board's commitment to openness and transparency in the conduct of all its business and extends equally to the work carried out on its behalf by Committees. The Board requires, wherever possible, meetings to be held in public. The Committee will:
- hold meetings in public, other than where a matter is required to be discussed in private (see point 5.6);
  - issue an annual programme of meetings (including timings and venues) and its annual programme of business;
  - publish agendas and papers on the Health Board's website in advance of meetings;



- ensure the provision of agendas and minutes in English and Welsh and upon request in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print, and easy read; and
- through ABUHB's website, promote information on how attendees can notify the Health Board of any access needs sufficiently in advance of a proposed meeting, e.g., interpretation or translation arrangements, in accordance with legislative requirements such as the Equality Act 2010 and Welsh Language Standards 2018.

### **Withdrawal of individuals in attendance**

- 5.6 There may be circumstances where it would not be in the public interest to discuss a matter in public, e.g., business that relates to a confidential matter. In such cases the Chair (advised by the Director of Corporate Governance where appropriate) shall schedule these issues accordingly and require that any observers withdraw from the meeting. In doing so, the Committee shall resolve:

*That representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest in accordance with Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (c.67).*

In these circumstances, when the Committee is not meeting in public session it shall operate in private session, formally reporting any decisions taken to the next meeting of the Committee in public session.

## **6. RELATIONSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITIES WITH THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES/GROUPS**

- 6.1 Although the Board has delegated authority to the Committee for the exercise of certain functions (as set out within these terms of reference), the Board retains overall responsibility and accountability for all matters relating to performance and resources.

The Committee is directly accountable to the Board for its performance in exercising the functions set out in these terms of reference.

- 6.2 The Committee will work closely with the Board's other committees, joint and sub committees and groups to provide advice and assurance to the Board through the:
- joint planning and co-ordination of Board and Committee business;

- sharing of appropriate information; and
- applicable escalation of concerns.

In doing so, this contributes to the integration of good governance across the organisation, ensuring that all sources of assurance are incorporated into the Board's overall risk and assurance framework.

- 6.3 The Committee shall embed the Health Board's agreed Values and Behaviours, as set out in the Board's Values and Behaviours Framework, through the conduct of its business.

## 7. REPORTING AND ASSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 The Committee Chair shall:
- report formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the Board on the Committee's activities. This includes verbal updates on activity, and the submission of Committee minutes and written reports;
  - bring to the Board's specific attention any significant matters under consideration by the Committee;
  - ensure appropriate escalation arrangements are in place to alert the Chair of ABUHB, Chief Executive or Chairs of other relevant committees/groups of any urgent/critical matters that may affect the operation and/or reputation of the Health Board.
- 7.2 The Board may also require the Committee Chair to report upon the Committee's activities at public meetings, e.g., Annual General Meeting, or to community partners and other stakeholders, where this is considered appropriate, e.g., where the committee's assurance role relates to a joint or shared responsibility.
- 7.3 The Director of Corporate Governance shall oversee a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of the Committee's performance and operation including that of further committees established.
- 7.4 The Committee shall provide a written annual report to the Board on its activities. The report will also record the results of the Committee's self-assessment and evaluation.

## **8. APPLICABILITY OF STANDING ORDERS TO COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- 8.1 The requirements for the conduct of business as set out in ABUHB's Standing Orders are equally applicable to the operation of the Committee, except in the following areas:
- Quorum
  - Issue of Committee papers

## **9. CHAIR'S ACTION ON URGENT MATTERS**

- 9.1 There may, occasionally, be circumstances where decisions which would normally be made by the Committee need to be taken between scheduled meetings, and it is not practicable to call a meeting of the Committee. In these circumstances, the Chair of the Committee, supported by the Director of Corporate Governance as appropriate, may deal with the matter on behalf of the Committee - after first consulting with at least two other Independent Members of the Committee. The Director of Corporate Governance must ensure that any such action is formally recorded and reported to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration and ratification.
- 9.2 Chair's action may not be taken where the Chair has a personal or business interest in the urgent matter requiring a decision.

## **10. REVIEW**

- 10.1 These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually by the Committee. The Committee Chair will report any changes to the Board for ratification.
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