



# Nye's Board News

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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) held its most recent Board meeting in public on Wednesday, 27 January 2021. The meeting was held virtually through on-line meeting software and was live streamed via the Health Board's channel on YouTube. This briefing sets out the main areas of discussion and decisions. The full report is published on the Health Boards website and can be found [here](#).

## MASS VACCINATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Board received an update on the excellent progress being made on Mass Vaccination Programme within the Health Board area. As at 26th January over 55,000 does had been administered to individuals in the top 4 priority groups under the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice.

The Health Board invited Care Home staff into mass vaccination clinics from day one in line with priority groupings and was first to invite people aged 80 years old and over into clinics, which started on 21st December 2020.

The Health Board has been vaccinating frontline staff across the spectrum of health and social care, and leading the way in ensuring independent contractors, community based staff and colleagues from social care have appropriate access to vaccination, as well as hospital based staff.

On 30th December 2020, the Chief Medical Officers of the four UK nations issued a joint statement relating to the scheduling of second doses, extending the interval period from 28 days to 12 weeks. Urgent action was taken to re-allocated thousands of appointments booked for second doses in January.

The latest position with regards to the workforce plan for the Mass Vaccination Programme was discussed which is a combination of staff redeployment, additional hours, mutual support, volunteers and recruitment.

The meeting also noted that the immunisers workforce has been increased include non-clinical registrants.



The latest position on community transmission of the virus together with COVID and non-COVID patients within hospital settings was considered. The Board thanked all members of the community for their compliance with the regulations and were pleased to note the reduction in sickness absence of staff together with the increasing numbers of staff recruited to the Health Board.

## **SOUTH EAST WALES VASCULAR SURGERY NETWORK**

The Board was updated on the next steps in the process for the development of vascular services in South East Wales. The Joint Vascular Programme Board had recommended the service moves to a networked arrangement for the delivery of vascular services based on a well-recognised hub and spoke model. The preferred model to be delivered by the network was a centralised hub in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board with supporting spokes in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board



The next step was for a period of formal engagement to take place across 4 Health Boards, namely Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Teaching Health Board, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Powys Teaching Health Board.

The Board supported a period of stakeholders engagement on the proposals which would commence on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It was anticipated that following extensive engagement a final proposal would be received by Boards in September 2021.

## **FINANCE**

The latest update on the Health Board financial position was provided. A COVID-19 financial plan was produced during April 2020, which had been updated to reflect the operational plan for quarter 2 (2020/21) and further updated to reflect the operational plan for quarters 3 and 4. Financial planning assumptions and forecasts are based on the assumptions within current operational plan. The month 8 year to date position is a £572k surplus and the full year forecast is break-even.

The significant opportunities to improve the financial outlook for 2021/22 as well as the risks and opportunities were discussed.

## **PERFORMANCE**

The performance reporting of many of the national indicators continues to be suspended, to enable the Health Board to focus on responding to the current phase of the pandemic. In line with other Health Boards and Trusts across the UK, COVID-19 has impacted on the Health Board's services, resulting in the need to discontinue non-urgent elective services and undertake major reconfiguration of wards and departments to create COVID-19 and non COVID-19 pathways.

Whilst there is a desire to re-start more routine services including non-urgent planned surgery and routine diagnostic procedures the current pressures and increase in the number of COVID-19 cases has resulted in many plans being reviewed. The situation will be kept under constant review.

## ANNUAL PLAN

The Board were updated on the timetable and process for the preparation of the Health Boards Annual Plan for 2021/22.

In December 2020 the Welsh Government issued the NHS Wales Annual Planning Framework for 2021 to 2022 which required a plan to be submitted by the end of March 2021. The Annual Plan will include priority themes accompanied by a demand and capacity data and work is underway internally and with partners to develop a system wide Annual Plan.

The Plan would be presented to the Board at its meeting in March.

## RENEW OF QUARTER 3 2020/21

This report provided the Board with an update on the progress across the Health Board achieved in Quarter 3, which was in line with the Quarter 3 and 4 Operational Plan. The Operational Plan had set out the plans for the winter period in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 response across the spectrum of Health Board services and responsibilities. The report set out the main headlines for Quarter 3 in terms of key achievements and challenges and the key priorities for the remainder of 2020/21.



Partnership working had been a key component of the Health Board's success in providing its Test, Trace and Protect/Vaccination (TTP) programme, especially against a backdrop of increasing COVID incidence amongst the population. The opening of the Grange University Hospital in November 2020 had been essential for the Health Board to improve its ability to manage the demand on its services and to provide a safe environment and working practice for specialities such as, obstetrics, paediatrics and clinical care.

The Health Board's ability to change its models of working quickly and effectively had shown its staff to be accomplished and highly motivated to provide the best care they could in highly demanding and challenging working environments. The Health Board recognises that staff wellbeing was paramount and continued to improve the availability of wellbeing services.

The Health Board acknowledged that Quarter 4 would continue to be challenging through the COVID pandemic but would continue to ensure patients can access the range of urgent and emergency services they need while delivering full access to COVID care, community and hospital COVID testing, TTP services and COVID 19 vaccination programme.

## **COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY ASSURANCE UPDATE**

Assurance reports were received from the Quality and Patient Safety Committee and the Audit Committee which had met since the last Board Meeting. An assurance report was also received from the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee.

## **BOARD THANK YOU**

The enormous effort of staff, volunteers and all partners during the COVID-19 pandemic was recognised. Thanks were expressed to all those working flexibly, differently and together to protect our communities and deliver high quality services.

**THANK YOU ALL**