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**GIG
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WALES**

Iechyd a Gofal
Digidol Cymru
Digital Health
and Care Wales

BOARD INSIGHTS



Welcome to Board Insights, as members of the SHA Board, we all feel it's important to keep you updated with some of the work we are undertaking across the organisation and NHS Wales.

This edition comes from our Independent Member,
Marian Wyn Jones.

Annwyl gyfeillion/ Dear colleagues,

As we head into the festive period, I wanted to share with you, some of the discussions and activities of the Board since the last edition of Board Insights.

Our last Board meeting of this calendar year was the first to be chaired by our newly-appointed substantive Chair, Simon Jones and we are very

much looking forward to working with him and to build on the good progress achieved so far. This was also Independent Member, Sian Doyle's last Board meeting following her recent appointment as Chief Executive of S4C. Whilst we wish her well in her new role, she will be greatly missed.

A few key highlights from the Board meeting include:

- It was in fact our first virtual meeting on Zoom, enabling the use of simultaneous translation and part of DHCW's approach to encourage us to speak some more Welsh, in support of Welsh Government's target to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050. We received a briefing on the new e-Prescribing program that is about to be launched.
- It was a real pleasure to hear about the award-winning Welsh Nursing Care Record (WNCR), an all Wales standardised digital nursing record being implemented in hospitals across Wales within Adult In-Patient Care. Nursing and Midwifery leaders had identified the WNCR as a key requirement to standardise nursing documentation, reducing both duplication and variation. It was great to hear such positive user feedback.
- We received presentations on the National Data Research Strategy, the Open Architecture Strategy, and an update on progress to develop DHCW's Integrated Medium Term Plan 2022-25, which is expected to come to the next Board meeting in January.
- As Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee, I highlighted key matters considered at the October meeting, our third to date which included updates from Internal Audit and Audit Wales. We reviewed the corporate risk register, received assurance that the Welsh Language Scheme was being proactively taken forward, noting the appointment of a Welsh Language Services Manager would be crucial in promoting the language within DHCW.

Meanwhile, as a Board we have explored a number of critical areas in our Board Development sessions, including DHCW's core purpose within the health and care system, our approach to the development of our long-term vision and strategy as well as our risk appetite.

We have had helpful briefing sessions on the Strategic Programme for Primary Care and Cluster Development led by Sue Morgan, National Director for Primary Care in Wales. We have also considered the Integrated Performance Framework and the draft Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan ahead of their presentation to the next Board meeting in January.

It is good to note that the proposal to establish an NHS Wales Independent Member Digital Network has gained support from each Health Board, Trust and Special Health Authority in Wales, enabling us to further engage, to share good practice and learning and to ensure strategic alignment.

My thanks to the staff in DHCW who joined in my recent internal TenTalk session, I hope you learnt a little more about my background! I really valued your thoughtful feedback and questions.

Finally, I was delighted to hear that our Chief Executive, Helen Thomas had won the CEO of the year award at the Digital Health Awards. It is testament to the quality of her leadership and a recognition of your huge achievements as DHCW staff during a period of unprecedented change and challenge. **Well done! Llongyfarchiadau!**

Marian Wyn Jones
Independent Member

