



**PWYLLGOR ARCHWILIO A SICRWYDD RISG
AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	21 June 2022
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	All Wales NHS Audit Committee Chair's Meeting
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Mr Paul Newman, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Chair
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Mr Paul Newman, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Chair

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Gwybodaeth/For Information

**ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT**

Sefyllfa / Situation

The purpose of the paper is to present the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee with an update from the proceedings of the All Wales NHS Audit Committee Chairs' meeting held on 19th May 2022, chaired by Mr Paul Newman, Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

Cefndir / Background

The All Wales NHS Audit Committee Chairs' meeting provides an opportunity to share information regarding common issues which arise within NHS bodies across NHS Wales and to share best practice. The forum is supported by attendance from a nominated Board Secretary from the All Wales Board Secretaries Network (AWBSN). In addition, meetings are attended by representatives from NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Internal Audit (NWSSP IA), as providers of audit assurance through the independent and objective assessment of governance, risk management and internal control. Also in attendance are representatives from Audit Wales (AW), in their capacity as external auditors who also provide information and advice.

Asesiad / Assessment

The following is a summary of the main issues discussed at the meeting on 19th May 2022:

1. Cyber Security

The Director of ICT, DHCW and the Interim Head of Cyber Security, DHCW provided a presentation highlighting the critical importance to business continuity of effective cyber security arrangements and outlining the scale of the potential impact of a successful cyber-attack upon service provision (with specific reference to health bodies, and using as an example the effects of a ransomware attack in May 2021 targeting the Health Service Executive – HSE - which provides all public health services in Ireland).

It was noted that NHS Wales comprises 12 legal entities, it operates via a single IT network (the 'Cymru' domain) and this flexibility also represents a weakness, in that a security failure anywhere within NHS Wales can affect every entity - this risk being exacerbated by the existence of older legacy systems within individual organisations.

Key elements of cyber security planning were highlighted in relation to a potential attack, grouped under the generic heading '*how to prevent* and *how to prepare for.*' These included the establishment of clear responsibility and governance arrangements at executive level for IT and cyber security, organisational investment in IT and cyber security resources, and the development of a Business Continuity Plan (which should focus upon provision of care and services to patients rather than the restoration of IT services). The establishment of *offline* IT backup systems was also critical to protect against the deletion or modification of data, and the supporting roles of the DHCW Cyber Security team and the NHS Wales Cyber Resilience Unit were outlined.

Recognising that associated risks should be comprehensively identified and captured, members discussed the level of detail which should be included on risk registers, together with appropriate fora in which to discuss cyber risks and agreed to review the submissions provided within their own organisations to ensure they have been scrutinised within the governance framework of the respective organisations.

2. NWSSP Internal Audit Update

Members received a presentation summarising the work of Internal Audit (IA) in respect of: 2021/21 audit progress, Limited Assurance reviews, themes emerging in relation to 2022/23 audit plans, changes to audit methodology, the IMTP 2022-25 and IA's workplan with AWACC 2022/23. The main points raised relating to IA work included:

- Key themes linked to Limited Assurance opinions included workforce (particularly control of contractors, consultancy and temporary staff) - reflecting common pressures impacting upon organisations, the wider clinical governance area (specifically around Mental Health) and specific aspects of governance - mainly relating to monitoring arrangements for specific projects.
- Key themes emerging from audit plans relate primarily to quality, with emphasis laid upon the need to maintain a quality focus in service recovery, particularly in the face of current workforce challenges. Members noted that cyber-risk was also listed as an emerging theme in 2022/23 audit plans.
- As regards changes to audit methodology, it was noted that a Business Manager had been appointed to the Internal Audit Team, whose remit would include identifying trends and emerging issues from different organisations, enabling more effective use and reporting of these themes.

Noting that the development of meaningful quality Key Performance Indicators had been included on Internal Audit's workplan, consideration was given to how lessons could be learned from other Welsh health bodies, based on the findings of internal audits. Members were advised that this would be facilitated through the development of bespoke reporting from IA which would present an All Wales view in relation to individual findings. In regard to identification and adoption of 'best practice', the potential liability issues which may need to be considered by auditors and by organisations in adopting processes which subsequently prove to be detrimental or ineffective was recognised. Furthermore, the importance of using one auditor or audit team to work on the same area across different organisations to ensure the identification of good practice is based upon a consistent and comparative approach, and the merits of sharing what works well, as opposed to becoming overly preoccupied with relative gradings of 'good' and 'best'.

3. Audit Wales Update - External Audit Programme.

An update on work in progress was provided, together with an update on Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee (PAPAC) related developments and a summary of Audit Wales (AW) reports and outputs between January 2022 and April 2022.

Summary overviews were provided of findings from two specific reviews undertaken by AW: 'Care Home Commissioning for Older People' (reported in December 2021) and 'Taking Care of the Carers?' (published October 2021). The review of care homes, while being focused upon 6 Local Authorities and 1 Health Board in North Wales, identified significant generic challenges which are applicable regionally and nationally in relation to workforce (poor pay and lack of career structure), the need to better understand the experience of service users, the need for a better developed regional response in relation to commissioning, market stability and the need for a greater focus upon dementia. The inherent complexity of these issues, which inhibits the implementation of solutions and recognised the shift in the value which the general population attributes to care home workers as a key element in improving both career opportunities and rates of remuneration for staff within the sector was noted. Furthermore it was acknowledged that the need for Local Authorities to balance the allocation of funding to domiciliary care services in order to support people in their own homes with increases in funding to resource care homes.

The findings from the 'Taking Care of the Carers?' review, which pointed to short and long-term risks to staff health resulting from the pandemic, also highlighted the focus which all NHS bodies in Wales had placed upon safeguarding staff at risk of COVID-19 and brought the need to focus upon staff wellbeing into sharper relief. In order to structure this focus, members were advised that the review had made 6 recommendations for health bodies and that AW had highlighted its expectations to Board Secretaries in regard to how its findings would be taken through the workforce and audit committees of their respective organisations.

4. Sharing Approaches across NHS Wales

Members noted that this agenda item was included as an action from the previous meeting (AWACC 22 08: *Comparison of how audit trackers and the Board Assurance Framework are managed and populated at the next meeting*). The need to ensure that service and department managers maintain ongoing discussion with audit committees in regard to progress and key issues impacting upon their respective areas was highlighted, as was the need to balance the aim of reducing the number of outstanding recommendations and actions listed on trackers as quickly as possible with the need to avoid placing undue demand upon staff who are already experiencing significant pressures

5. Update of Key and Relevant Matters from the All-Wales Board Secretaries Network (AWBSN)

Updates from the AWBSN meetings held on 28th January 2022 and 8th April 2022 were shared with the meeting papers. Members were informed that key issues discussed included accelerated cluster development and the approaches taken by health bodies in preparing for the forthcoming UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry.

6. AWACC Work Programme

Recognising the continuing relevance of certain topics included on the work plan which had been discussed at previous meetings, it was suggested that these be re-tabled for future meetings – cyber-security being highlighted as an example.

7. Chair and Support Arrangements

Members were informed that Martin Turner (WAST) would now take over the AWACC Chair and that the Board Secretary support role would at the same time pass to the WAST Board Secretary (Trish Mills). The next meeting will take place on 13th October 2022.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is requested to receive this report for information.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Committee ToR Reference Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor	3.1 The Committee shall review the adequacy of the UHB's strategic governance and assurance arrangements and processes for the maintenance of an effective system of good governance, risk management and internal control, across the whole of the organisation's activities (both clinical and non-clinical) that supports the achievement of the organisation's objectives.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not Applicable
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	Governance, Leadership and Accountability
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	All Strategic Objectives are applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	All Planning Objectives Apply
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Statement	Not Applicable

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol:

Further Information:

Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Assurance reports to Committees and Board aligned to relevant standards.
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	AWBSN – All Wales Board Secretaries' Network DHCW – Digital Health and Care Wales IMTP – Integrated Medium Term Plan WAST – Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Archwilio a Sicrwydd Risg: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Audit and Risk Assurance Committee:	Board Secretary Chair, Audit & Risk Assurance Committee
---	--

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	There are no direct financial implications within this report.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	There are no direct quality or patient care implications within this report.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	There are no direct workforce implications within this report.
Risg: Risk:	There are no direct implications within this report.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	There are no legal workforce implications within this report.
Enw Da: Reputational:	There are no direct implications within this report.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	There are no direct implications within this report.
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has EqIA screening been undertaken? No • Has a full EqIA been undertaken? No