



**PWYLLGOR DEDDFWRIAETH IECHYD MEDDWL  
MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

<b>DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:</b>	05 June 2025
<b>TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Mental Health Legislation Committee (MHLC) Self-Assessment Outcome Report 2024/25
<b>CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:</b>	Chantal Patel, MHLC Chair Andrew Carruthers, Chief Operating Officer
<b>SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Joanne Wilson, Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary Charlotte Wilmshurst, Assistant Director of Assurance and Risk

**Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)**

**Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)**

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

**ADRODDIAD SCAA**

**SBAR REPORT**

**Sefyllfa / Situation**

The purpose of this report is to provide outcome of the Mental Health Legislation Committee (MHLC) Self-Assessment 2024/25 process to the Committee.

**Cefndir / Background**

In line with Section 10.2.1 of Standing Orders, the Board is required to introduce a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of its own operations and performance and that of its Committees and Advisory Groups. Section 10.2.2 also states that each Committee must also submit an annual report to the Board through the Chair within 6 weeks of the end of the reporting year setting out its activities during the year and including the review of its performance and that of any sub-Committees it has established.

A refreshed approach to the Committee self-assessment process was developed in 2023 which was intended to be proportionate, achievable and add value to the organisation's governance capability. For MHLC, this involved:

- Short digital form which requested feedback on the following areas:
  - Governance and administration
  - Committee's inputs
  - Conduct of Committee meetings
  - Interface with other Committees, including the Board
  - Committee's impact
  - Individual role on Committee

The feedback from this form was considered alongside other information, such as:

- Matters alerted to the Board

- IM Reflective sessions
- Auditor/Regulator feedback

The MHLC Chair and Lead Executive met to consider the Committee's effectiveness to date based on responses from the above digital form and feedback from auditors/regulators and other intelligence on how the Committee currently operates, where it has made an impact and what it has shone a light on, and the areas where it could have done better. With only 6 responses received (30%), it has been challenging to effectively analyse the committee's performance.

### Asesiad / Assessment

The Chair and Lead Executive met to consider the Committee's effectiveness to date based on responses from the above digital form and feedback from auditors/regulators and other intelligence on how the Committee currently operates, where it has made an impact and what it has shone a light on, and the areas where it could have done better.

#### **Look back at Committee's effectiveness over previous 12 months...**

The below analysis was based on responses from the digital form and feedback from auditors/regulators and other intelligence on how the Committee currently operates:

#### **What we want to continue to do next year**

- Good governance and administration of Committee
- Receive good support from EDs/Deputies re attendance, timeliness of papers
- Chair effectively and have open, transparent and productive debate with constructive challenge from IMs
- Good interface with other committees and Board and provide clear and concise information to Board on the committee's activities.
- Provide assurance to the Board on compliance with mental health legislation and that its application is fair and lawful.
- Monitor and manage risks related to compliance with mental health legislation

#### **What we want to change going forward**

- Reports need to identify items that may need to be escalated (alert/advise) to Board
- Continue to improve the quality of reports and presentations to ensure they provide an overview as opposed to including too much operational detail.
- Reduce the length of policy papers by ensuring reports focus on salient points to provide assurance to the committee
- Improve meeting flow during hybrid meetings by asking individuals to introduce themselves before speaking so that attendees joining remotely know who is speaking.
- Ensure feedback from Board and the Committee Update Reports is reported to the next meeting.
- Alert the Board earlier to concerns in relation to compliance with mental health legislation.
- Provide support for new Independent Members who join the Committee.

#### **Suggested areas of focus for 2025/26**

- Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) as it progresses to the third and fourth stage
- Continued challenges around places of safety for section 136
- Access to beds when admission is required

- Review of the Mental Health Act which will be reported via Mental Health Scrutiny Group
- Risk Register
- Shortage of doctors and nurses which impact Mental Health services, performance, sickness levels, beds.
- Oversight of out of county/country placements and ensure legislation and review is being met.
- Ensure unpaid carers and families' rights are being met in terms of legislation
- Ensure legal rights in terms of access to mental health care and treatment including inpatient access and provision.

The following actions will be taken forward by the Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary:

Action	By whom	By when
Consider including the suggested areas of focus for 2025/6 on the Committee Workplan	Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities	Sept 25
Ensure Board is alerted earlier to concerns in relation to compliance with mental health legislation	Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities	Sept 25
Continue to improve the quality of reports and presentations by ensuring they provide a clear, high level overview focussed on key assurance points while reducing unnecessary operational detail and shortening policy papers to highlight key information.	Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities	Sept 25
Ensure that new Independent Members to the Committee meet with the MHLC Chair and Service Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities to improve their understanding of their role on the Committee.	Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary	Immediate

### Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the outputs from the Committee Self-Assessment process, and to agree the actions to be taken to improve its effectiveness.

### **Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)**

### **Objectives: (must be completed)**

Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	10.5 The Board Secretary, on behalf of the Board, shall oversee a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of the Committee's performance and operation, including that of any sub committees established
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not applicable
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality	7. All apply

<a href="#">Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)</a>	
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: <a href="#">Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)</a>	6. All Apply
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	Not Applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	Not Applicable
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: <a href="#">Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022</a>	10. Not Applicable

#### **Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:**

Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	MHLC Terms of Reference MHLC Self-Assessment digital form results Auditor and Regulator feedback through Structured Assessment, and Internal Audit
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Included within report
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Pobl a Datblygu Sefydliadol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to People, Organisational Development & Culture Committee:	MHLC Chair Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary

#### **Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)**

<b>Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:</b>	An effective MHLC should seek out areas of system weakness and facilitate an organisational culture that drives strategic development and operational performance.
<b>Gweithlu: Workforce:</b>	Not applicable

<b>Risg: Risk:</b>	An effective MHLC should drive improvement through scrutiny and challenge on the effective and efficient management of risks relating to strategic development and operational performance.
<b>Cyfreithiol: Legal:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Enw Da: Reputational:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Cydraddoldeb: Equality:</b>	Not applicable

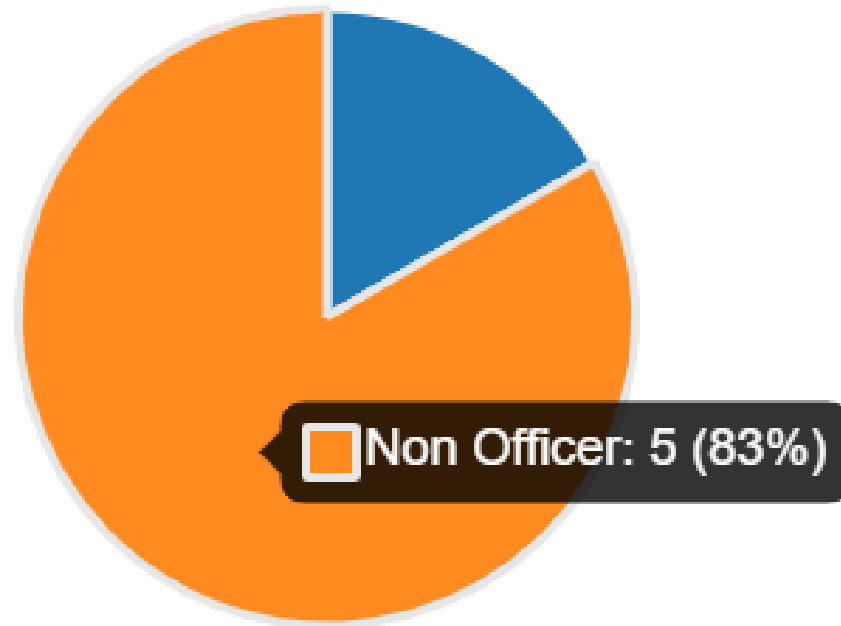
# Mental Health Legislation Committee Effectiveness Outcome



- To review Committee's effectiveness over preceding 12 months taking into account the key themes from
  - Digital survey responses
  - Matters escalated to the Board
  - IM Reflective sessions
  - Changes to risks and outcome measures aligned to the Committee
  - Auditor/Regulator feedback
- Develop an improvement plan and work that it can take forward with other Committees
- Produce an outcome report identifying
  - Areas that it could have done better
  - Actions to be taken forward by the Committee for next 12 months

## Section 1

1. What is your role within the Committee?



6 Responses received = 30% response rate

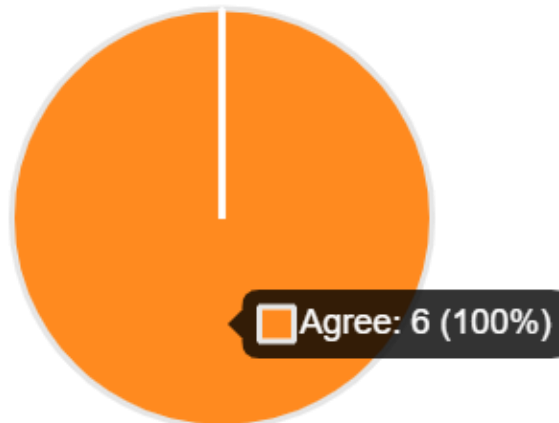
# Section 2 – About the Committee’s governance and administration



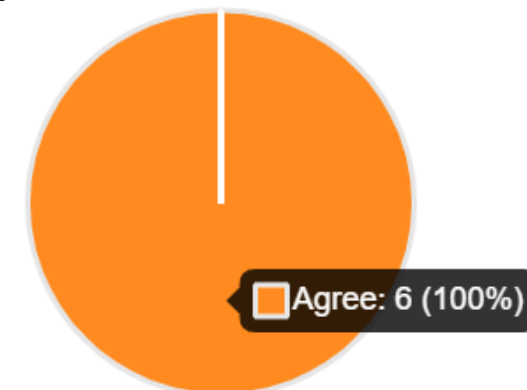
GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

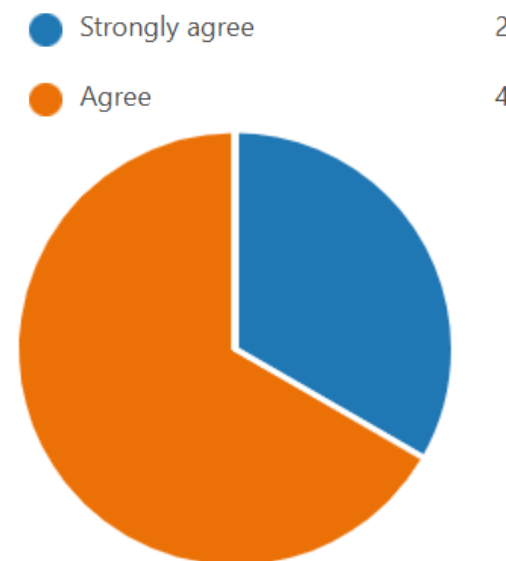
2. The Committee terms of reference clearly, adequately and realistically set out the Committee's role, nature and scope of its responsibilities in accordance with guidance and have been approved by the Committee and the full Board.



3. The Committee’s cycle of business is comprehensive and well balanced, paying attention to both short term priorities and longer-term needs, and aligned to HDdUHB’s strategic objectives.



4. The Committee meetings are well organised, efficient and effective. They occur often enough and are of appropriate length to allow discussion of planned matters and emerging issues consistent with the Committee’s responsibilities.



## Section 2 - About the Committee's governance and administration (cont)



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

5. Please share any further information you think is relevant to the Committee's governance and administration.

*“If there are any items identified in the committee that advise or alert at Board level, it should be identified in the papers right from the start.”*

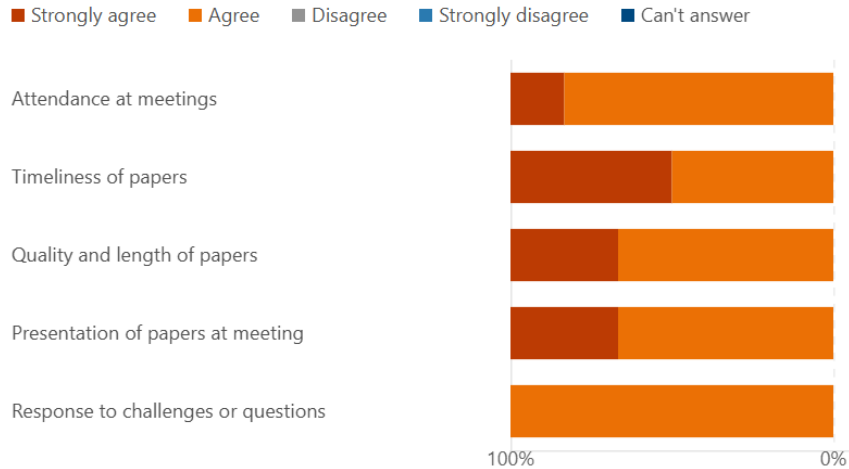
# Section 3 – About the Committee’s inputs



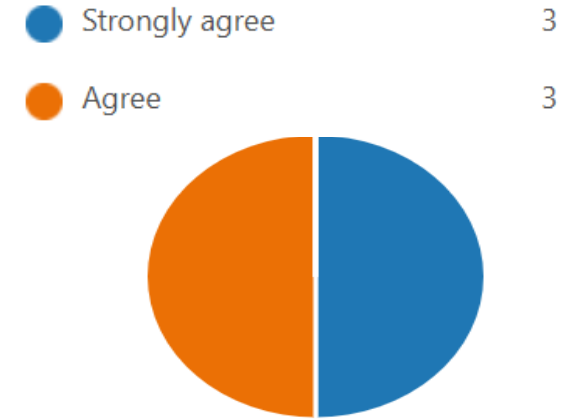
GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

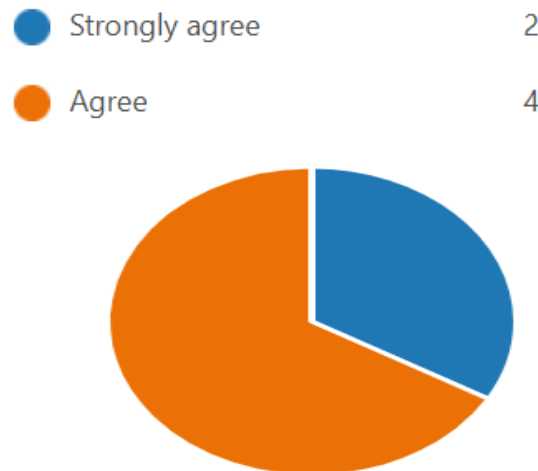
6. The Committee is adequately supported by Executive Directors (and/or deputies/representatives) in terms of the following:



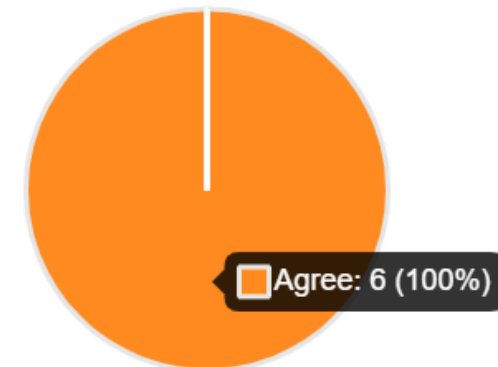
7. Attendance and contribution are suitably representative of the multi-disciplinary clinical workforce.



8. The papers provide the Committee with a clear and succinct understanding of the risks facing the Health Board and how they are being managed/mitigated and improved over time.



9. The papers enable Members to focus in on the most significant matters of assurance, rather than get lost in the operational detail.



## Section 3 – About the Committee’s inputs (cont)



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

10. Please share any further information you think is relevant to the Committee’s inputs:

*“There are occasional papers where operational details are included rather than an overview but that is slowly being worked out of the papers.”*

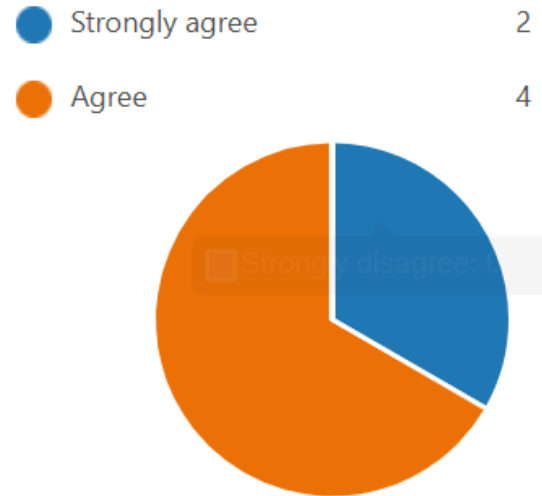
# Section 4 – About the conduct of Committee meetings



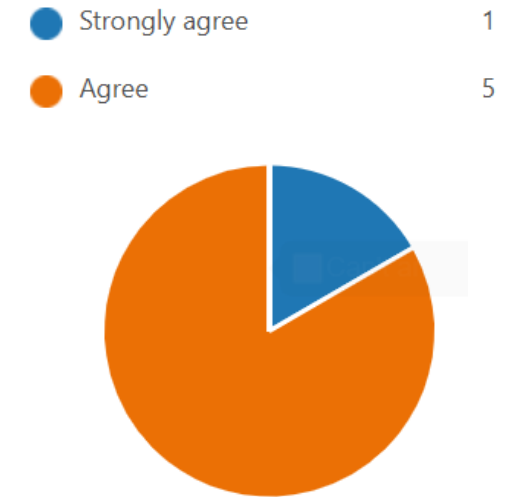
GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

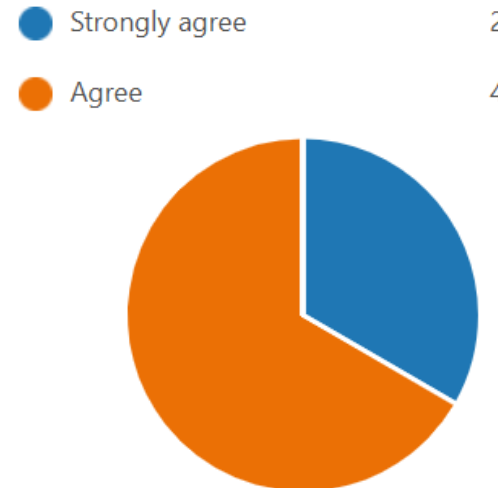
11. The Committee meetings are chaired effectively and with clarity of purpose and outcome.



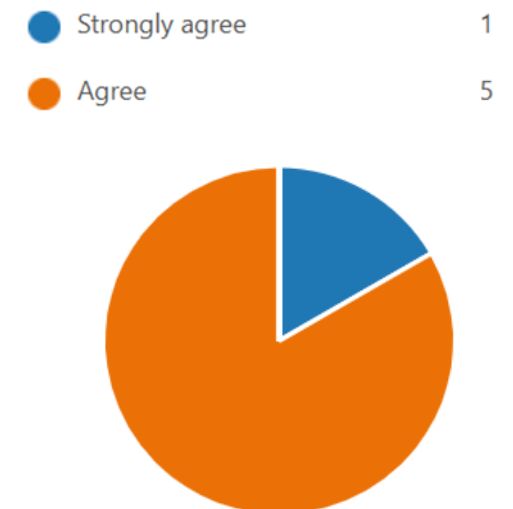
12. The atmosphere at the meetings is conducive to open and productive debate and the behaviour of all Members/attendees is courteous and professional.



13. Independent Members contribute equally and constructively challenge Executive Directors and presenters, ensuring there is appropriate scrutiny of agenda items.



14. Independent Members manage their boundary between scrutiny and operational involvement/detail effectively.



## Section 4 – About the conduct of Committee meetings (cont)



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

15. Please share any further information you think is relevant to the conduct of Committee meetings.

*“When working on Microsoft Teams if the people around the table introduced themselves before they talk or question it would be helpful on the screen.”*

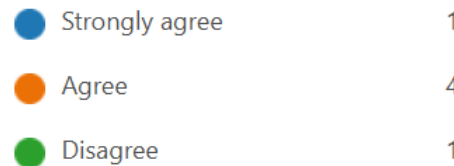
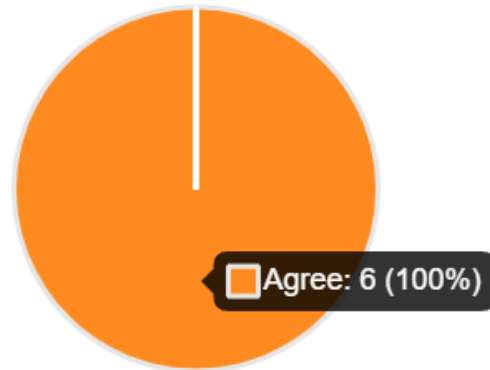
# Section 5 – About the interface with other Committees including the Board



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

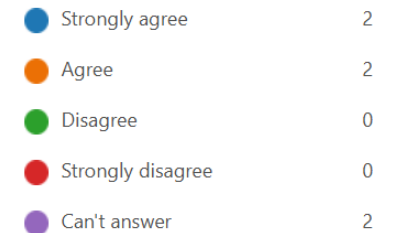
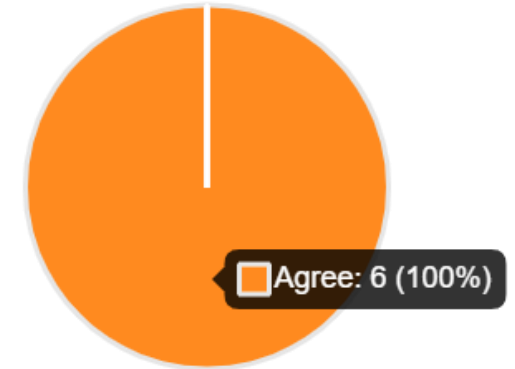
16. The boundaries between this Committee and other Committees are clearly defined with adequate cross-referral/collaborative working, where appropriate.



18. The Board provides sufficient scrutiny and challenge to the Committee and provides feedback where appropriate on areas that raised to the Board's attention.



17. The Committee Chair provides clear and concise information to the Board on the activities of the Committee and the implication of all identified gaps in assurance and/or control.



19. Private meetings of the Committee have been used appropriately – i.e. only for items that should not be discussed in the public domain (i.e. commercially sensitive, identifiable information).



## Section 5 – About the interface with other Committees including the Board (cont)



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

20. Please share any further information you think is relevant to the interface with other Committees including Board.

*“I think when items are identified as Alert in any committee that goes to Board, feedback should be included in the next meeting even if it's only to confirm that the item was presented at Board, some issues are only identified in committee so it can be a reassurance to the committee itself”*

# Section 6 – About the Committee’s impact



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

21. Has the Committee driven improvements on specific matters during the year?

- Yes 3
- No 3



22. If yes please provide examples.

*“RCRP Review section 135 Policy”*

*“The lack of doctors and nurses in Aberystwyth mental health unit reduce social workers in the Pembrokeshire area.*

*The reduction in the number of patients waiting for the hospital management assessment.*

*The utilisation of 111/2 has become very effective and strongly supported the closure of the Minor Injuries Unit in PPH.”*

# Section 6 – About the Committee’s Impact

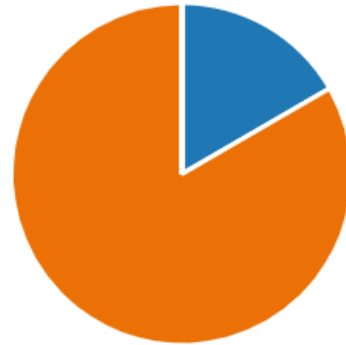


GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

23. The Committee is effective in assuring the Board on compliance with mental health legislation.

● Strongly agree 1  
● Agree 5

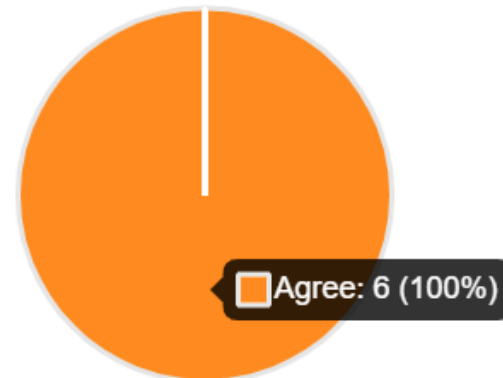


24. The Committee is effective in advising the Board of any concerns in relation to compliance with mental health legislation.

● Strongly agree 1  
● Agree 4  
● Disagree 1



25. The Committee is effective in seeking assurance that the operation of mental health legislation is fair and lawful.



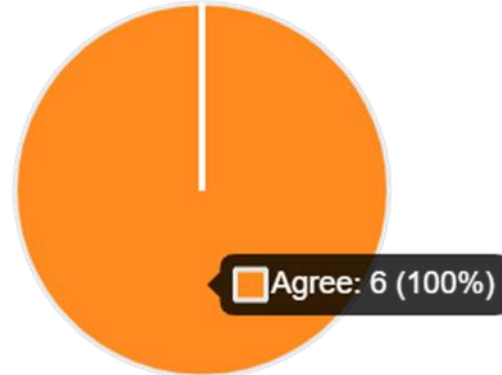
# Section 6 – About the Committee’s Impact



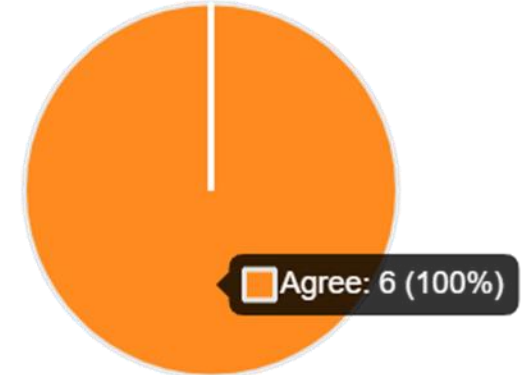
GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

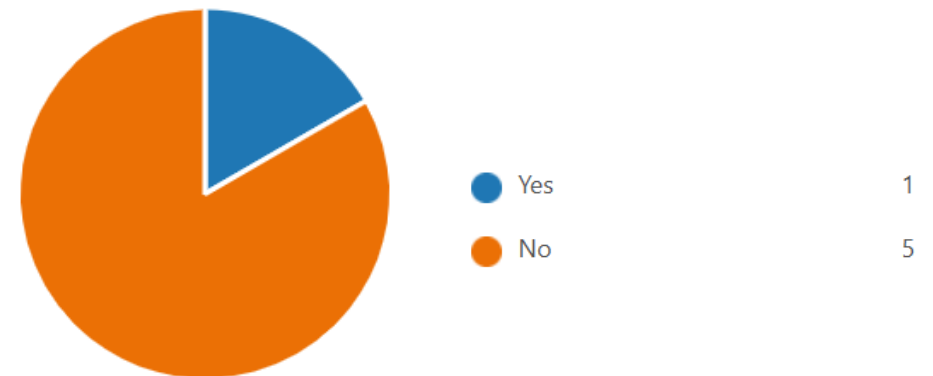
26. The Committee is effective in monitoring and managing risks related to compliance with mental health legislation.



27. The Committee is effective in ensuring that staff have the required skills and competencies to discharge the Board’s responsibilities.



28. Are there any areas where the Committee has been unable to provide assurance to the Board or has deteriorated whilst being monitored by the Committee?



## Section 6 - About the Committee's Impact (cont)



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

29. If yes, provide examples

*“Bringing issues to Board level I feel could be identified earlier so that we have a heads up that there's an issue and then what the outcome is of working to resolve the issue (example - Aberystwyth mental health unit)*

*We have been made aware that Pembrokeshire County Council is having issues with social workers, but that hasn't been brought to Board level yet and I feel it is an issue that should be as a heads up”*

# Section 7 – About your role



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

30. Did you feel adequately supported when you first took up your role on the Committee?

- Yes 5
- No 1



31. If no, please specify

*“I didn’t have a clear understanding of what the committee was all about and only really felt reassured after the second or third meeting. It would have been good when I arrived to spend some time with the Chair of the committee who can give you an overview of the role in the committee”.*

# Section 7 – About your role

32. Do you need any additional training to fulfil your role as a Member (or attendee of the Committee).

- Yes 1
- No 5



33. If yes, please specify

No response provided.

# Section 7 – What do you think should be the focus of the Committee's attention in the coming year?



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

34. What do you think should be the focus of the Committee's attention in the coming year?

*“RCRP as it progresses to the third and fourth stage, as an LA rep this will impact on the AMHP service, convenance and risk management. Continued challenges around places of safety for section 136. Access to beds when admission is needed”*

*“Review of the Mental Health Act which will be reported via MH Scrutiny Group. Risk Register – shortage of doctors which impact MH services MH beds”*

*“Ensuring oversight of out of county/country placements and ensure legislation and review is being met. Ensuring unpaid carers and families' rights are being met in terms of legislation Ensure legal rights in terms of access to mental health care and treatment including inpatient access and provision”*

*“The lack of doctors and nurses raise sickness levels and targets not met. I think the risk level is rising so should be more prominent in our assessments.”*

# Matters alerted to the Board



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

- None



## What went well?

- Well chaired
- Quality of papers focussed on outcomes and delivery and answered the questions that IMs had.
- Good balance of assurance /reassurance provided
- STEEEP principles incorporated throughout papers

## Not so well?

- Policy papers were quite lengthy – need to focus on salient points to provide assurance to the committee

# Structured Assessment



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

- MHLC not observed or reviewed as part of AW Structured Assessment

# Summary of Internal Audit Reports

(issued since 1 Dec 2023)



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

Substantial Assurance	Reasonable Assurance
	Mental Health and Learning Disability Service – Timely access
Limited Assurance**	
Advisory/non-opinion	

# Key themes – what we want to continue to do next year ?



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

- Provide good governance and administration of Committee
- Receive good support from EDs/Deputies re attendance, issue good quality papers that focus outcomes on time that are presented well at meetings
- Chair effectively and continue to have open, transparent and productive debate with constructive challenge from IMs, and for IMs to effectively manage between scrutiny and operational involvement/detail
- Good cross-referral/collaborative working with other Committees, and provide clear and concise information to Board on its activities
- Appropriately use private meetings for discussing items not suitable for the public domain
- Provide assurance to the Board on compliance with mental health legislation and that its application is fair and lawful
- Monitor and manage risks related to compliance with mental health legislation

# Key themes – What we want to change going forward



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

- Papers need to identify items that may need to be escalated (alert/advise) to Board
- Continue to improve the quality of reports and presentations to ensure they provide an overview as opposed to including too much operational detail
- Reduce the length of policy papers by ensuring reports focus on salient points to provide assurance to the committee
- Improve meeting flow during hybrid meetings by asking individuals to introduce themselves before speaking so that attendees who join meeting remotely know who is speaking
- Ensure feedback from Board on the Committee Update Report is reported to the next meeting
- Alert the Board earlier to concerns in relation to compliance with mental health legislation
- Provide better support for New IMs who join the Committee

# Suggested areas of focus for 2025/26



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board



- Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) as it progresses to the third and fourth stage
- Continued challenges around places of safety for section 136
- Access to beds when admission is needed
- Review of the Mental Health Act which will be reported via MH Scrutiny Group.
- Risk Register
- Shortage of doctors and nurses which impact MH services, performance, sickness levels, beds
- Oversight of out of county/country placements and ensure legislation and review is being met
- Ensure unpaid carers and families' rights are being met in terms of legislation
- Ensure legal rights in terms of access to mental health care and treatment including inpatient access and provision

# How are we going to work differently



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board

Action	By Whom	By when
Consider including the suggested areas of focus for 2025/26 on the Committee Workplan.	Director of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities	Sep25
Ensure Board is alerted earlier to concerns in relation to compliance with mental health legislation.	Director of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities	Sep25
Continue to improve the quality of reports and presentations by ensuring they provide a clear, high-level overview focused on key assurance points, while reducing unnecessary operational detail and shortening policy papers to highlight only the most salient information.	Director of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities	Sep25
In addition to IM training in MHA, ensure that new IMs to the Committee meet with the MHLC Chair and Service Director for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities to improve their understanding of their role on the Committee.	Director of Corporate Governance	Immediate



**DIOGEL | CYNALIADWY | HYGYRCH | CAREDIG**  
**SAFE | SUSTAINABLE | ACCESSIBLE | KIND**



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board