



PWYLLGOR DIWYLLIANT, POBL A DATBLYGU SEFYDLIADOL
PEOPLE, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	10 October 2023
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	2023/24 University Partnerships Planning
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Professor Philip Kloer, Executive Medical Director, and Deputy CEO
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Dr Leighton Phillips, Director of Research, Innovation and Value

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

To update on university partnership activity progress against the plans shared at the People, Organisational Development and Culture Committee (PODCC) meeting on 19 June. Committee members are asked to take assurance.

Cefndir / Background

In order to maintain its 'University Health Board' designation, Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) is required to demonstrate continuous improvement in collaborative working with its university partners. University designation represents a commitment on behalf of HDdUHB to ensure that university activity is demonstrably improving the quality of care, improving patient outcomes, and enhancing the reputation of the Health Board to attract people to work in Wales.

On an annual basis, HDdUHB is required by the Welsh Government to provide evidence of purposeful university partnership activity, with examples of how this is improving services and benefitting our population and to set out our plans for the next 12 months aligning to the Integrated Medium plans. There are three themes against which we are required to report our activity:

- Research and Development – with activity being aligned to areas of strength, need, or opportunity, going beyond clinical practice and extending to all health and care settings.
- Workforce, Training and Education – being considered in its broadest sense, going beyond clinical practice and extending to all health and care settings; and
- Innovation – with activity going beyond training, education and research and development activity undertaken within the organisation, also drawing in good practice and research evidence from elsewhere, applying this knowledge in order to drive up the quality of care and improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

Given the importance HDdUHB attaches to university status, partnership activities are reflected in its planning objectives, particularly those relating to research, innovation, and workforce,

however, university partnership can be useful to advancing many of the Health Board's ambitions, in areas including engineering, building design, law, management, and ecology.

The focus on the university partnership arrangements driven corporately is not to keep track of every area of activity being advanced between universities and the health board; rather, it is to ensure that a limited number of priorities receive the corporate focus and energy they deserve.

As advised at the PODCC meeting on 19 June, in 2023/24 we have agreed a limited set of strategic priorities with each university within our region. These are detailed within Appendix 1. In September we took stock of progress against these priorities with each of our partners and have summarised the output within the assessment section.

Asesiad / Assessment

Swansea University

A progress meeting took place on Thursday 24 August 2023. The current position for the 2023/24 priorities set for each domain of university partnership is as follows:

Workforce, Education and Training – The priorities were simulation and collaboration around the Pentre Awel Scheme. Significant progress has been made on the “Virtual Reality: A Welsh Reality” Project. It is aligned to an ongoing partnership between both organisations to help grow all forms of simulation-based learning, support individual learning and enhancing team and system performance. Progress includes the identification of 7 Virtual Reality (VR) scenarios and a VR Platform with a target date for completion being January 2024. Scenarios selected were:

1. Blood Transfusion,
2. Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA),
3. Anaphylaxis
4. Shock (Scenarios 1-4 include Communication, ISBAR handovers, check back and so forth. whilst embedding ABCDE assessment).
5. Mental Health
6. Systematic Physical Examination of the New-born Infant (SPENI)
7. Aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ANTT).

A collaborative bid was submitted to Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) for piloting a joint “Practice the Profession Programme” using Widening Access Funding (£29,975.20). Despite this being unsuccessful due to financial constraints, this did provide a collaborative proof of concept for future consideration.

In relation to Pentre Awel, the Director of Planning and Strategy has convened two meetings with Swansea University (26 June and 12 September) to share our respective plans for the scheme and to inform the identification of mutual research, innovation, and enterprise interests. A third meeting is planned in the Autumn, to involve a wider range of representatives from both organisations and focus on practical areas for collaboration.

From widening access perspective, discussions have commenced between the organisations to provide opportunities to bridge the gap between vocational and academic learning to strengthen the career pathways in non-clinical areas.

Research and Development – The priorities were building new research areas with associated honorary posts and Biophilic building design. In relation to developing new research partnerships, we plan to jointly target the new Health and Care Research Wales Faculty time

awards, with bowel cancer and primary care being two possible areas of focus. On Biophilic Design, we submitted a substantial UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) bid to support our programme and associated research. Sadly, it was unsuccessful but has served to deepen our partnership. Collaboration is now taking place in relation to a 'Shared Prosperity' grant secured with the National Botanical Gardens to create spaces for rest and recuperation in Carmarthenshire and skill development partnerships with the construction industry.

Enterprise and Innovation – The priority was to strengthen the relationship with the Computer Science Department. This is advancing through the TriTech and Innovation team developing research ideas and proposals with the Department. Tritech, the All-Wales Genomics Service (AWGS) and the Computer Science Department have begun discussions with NHS England to support the Genomics AI Network of Excellence. The Network will act at the intersection of NHS genomic medicine and Artificial Intelligence (AI) development and translational research to support the implementation of AI technology solutions in healthcare. The Network will build a national community in genomics and AI, create frameworks to support AI deployment, and deliver exemplar accelerator programmes to develop the evidence required to adopt AI for the benefit of NHS patients, including improved and accelerated diagnosis and personalised medicine.

Our digital team have also established strong links with the Doctoral Training Centre and are supporting one trainee.

University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD)

A progress meeting took place on 24 August 2023. The current position for the 2023/24 priorities set for each domain of university partnership is as follows:

Workforce, Education and Training – The priorities were to explore collaboration opportunities surrounding the Pentre Awel and Carmarthen Hub Schemes and identify opportunities to widen access to careers in health and care, including professional apprenticeships. Like HDdUHB, UWTSD are still developing their requirements for both Pentre Awel and the Carmarthen Hub. It is anticipated that both organisations will be clearer as we enter the final quarter of 2023/24, supporting the identification of synergies and areas for collaboration.

To explore collaboration around widening access, a meeting is planned for October 2023 to discuss opportunities for collaborating on work experience programmes, with the aim of exploring new innovative ways of offering a greater experience.

Despite not being a part of the overall university partnership plan for the year, collaboration with Construction Wales Innovation Centre (CWIC), a part of UWTSD, has commenced linked to raising awareness of the skills needs and procurement opportunities to support modern skills within construction. This links to having local skills to support the build of the new biophilic hospital and retrofitting the Health Board's estate. The next phase of this project is to set up a project group with various stakeholders including UWTSD, Swansea University, Aberystwyth University, Wood Knowledge Wales, Down to Earth and individuals involved in the architectural design of Velindre Hospital, showing regional university collaboration.

Research and Development – The priority was to find a structured way of offering support to Masters and PhD student. This has been identified and will be tested over the coming months, as candidates are accepted onto programmes.

Enterprise and Innovation – The priority was to develop a joint event to celebrate the enterprise and innovation achievements that have, or shortly will, be delivered. The TriTech

Institute and the Assistive Technologies and Innovation Centre (ATIC) have arranged an event called 'Catalyse,' which will take place on 25 October and highlight several collaborative achievements.

Aberystwyth University

A progress meeting took place on 12 September 2023. There has been a change in the University's leadership arrangements for partnership with HDdUHB. Professor Angela Hatton (Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Knowledge Exchange, and Innovation) will now take responsibility. The following update will be further developed over the coming weeks, as Professor Hatton becomes acquainted with the university partnership arrangements. However, the position against 2023/24 priorities is understood to be as follows:

Workforce, Education and Training – The priority was to undertake a scoping exercise around widening access to health and healthcare careers, working closely with colleges and schools. The changes in personnel have made it challenging to make early progress on this priority. The Assistant Director for People Development plans to arrange a meeting with Professor Hatton in October to develop an approach. In addition, with the universities widening offer of health-related topics, this has already led to greater collaboration and discussion around bridging models to enable access to courses.

A collaborative bid with Aberystwyth University was submitted to HEIW using non-recurrent funding to enhance Small Business Enterprise (SBE) delivery. Due to the current financial situation in NHS Wales, this funding was not granted, however has supported greater collaboration.

Research and Development – The priority was to develop one new joint clinician and academic research programme or endeavour, following recent networking events. Dr Helen Tench, Lead Research Nurse, has secured a Clinical Research Time award to work with the Institute of Biological, Environmental, and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth University and is developing several research proposals. Mr Simone Sebastiani, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Bronglais General Hospital, is also exploring potential research opportunities with the University.

Enterprise and Innovation – The priority was to develop a challenge-led innovation scheme, working with Aberystwyth Innovation. An application for Welsh Government funding (Economy Department) to support a joint healthcare challenge was developed but ultimately unsuccessful. However, both organisations are collaborating around the delivery of a successful 'Shared Prosperity' sponsored challenge focused on the Ceredigion area.

As this is a mid-year update, a summary report covering 2023/24 activities will be provided to PODCC in April 2024, together with priorities for 2024/25.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The PODCC is asked to:

- Take assurance from the report on progress in university partnership activities and note the priorities for 2024/25.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau) Objectives: (must be completed)	
Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	PODCC ToR V6 2.5 To provide assurance that the organisation is discharging its functions and meeting its responsibilities with regard to the research and innovation activity carried out within the Health Board.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	N/A
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	7. All apply
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	4. Learning, improvement and research
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	All Strategic Objectives are applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	5b Research and innovation
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	2. Develop a skilled and flexible workforce to meet the changing needs of the modern NHS

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	N/A
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	N/A
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Pobl a Datblygu Sefydliadol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to People, Organisational Development & Culture Committee:	None

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	N/A

Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	N/A
Gweithlu: Workforce:	N/A
Risg: Risk:	N/A
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	N/A
Enw Da: Reputational:	N/A
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	N/A
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	N/A

Appendix 1 – 23/24 University Partnership Priorities

Aberystwyth University

Workforce, Education and Training – To undertake a short and sharp scoping exercise to ensure we are identifying all possible links across the university and professional groups at the Health Board. To identify and, if appropriate, implement programmes that widen access to health and healthcare careers, working closely with colleges and schools. Both were selected due to an appreciation of Aberystwyth University's growing number of courses that could assist with Health Board recruitment and workforce development challenges.

Research and Development – To turn the findings from the recent research networking events into a clear and actionable plan, with the development of one new area of research endeavour, to be supported through dedicated clinical and academic time. This priority was selected to ensure the extensive network development that has taken place in 22/23 is translated into tangible results for both organisations.

Enterprise and Innovation – Develop a challenge-led innovation scheme, working with Aberystwyth Innovation. The scope would need to be identified, and funding secured, but possible areas of focus could be the social model of health or sustainable food systems. This priority reflects the success of previous challenge led innovations and two corporate priorities for the Health Board.

Swansea University

Workforce, Education and Training – To maintain a focus on the recently agreed simulation work, identify, and consider how to maximise the shared interest both institutions have in the Pentre Awel scheme. This latter objective is also of relevance to Research and Development and Enterprise and Innovation. The Pentre Awel priority is particularly important as both organisations have committed to a presence at the scheme and there is a near term opportunity to maximise the impact associated with working together.

Research and Development – To nominate and build research programmes around a further two honorary appointments and to secure a research grant to support the University's and Health Board's work on Biophilic design. The action learning set for Biophilic design was important to both organisations and this priority reflects the need to get resources in place to ensure the practical implementation of its findings.

Enterprise and Innovation – To look for additional opportunities to strengthen the relationship between TriTech and the University Health Board, notably in collaboration with the Computer Science department, in respect of Artificial Intelligence. Given the increasing interest in AI for diagnosis, and some of the technical and ethical challenges associated with its adoption, both organisations feel that focused joint working may be beneficial in 23/24.

UWTSD

Workforce, Education and Training – To consider and implement further programmes to widen access to careers in health and care, working with colleges and schools. To maximise opportunities for professional apprenticeships. To explore opportunities for jointly utilising the forthcoming Carmarthen Hub and Pentre Awel

Schemes. The Pentre Awel ambition applies also to Research and Development and Enterprise and Innovation. For similar reasons to those described within the Swansea University section, both organisations would like to prioritise looking at activities that could maximise the benefits of being co-located at the scheme.

Research and Development – To develop structured arrangements to facilitate joint organisational support for PhD and Masters Students.

Enterprise and Innovation – To design and hold a celebratory event, putting the spotlight on what university partnership has achieved and providing a platform to identify new opportunities. The collaboration between the Assistive Design and Technology Centre and the TriTech Institute has been exemplary, and both organisations are keen to hold an event that both looks back but in the interest of deepening the relationship through credible forward plans, spanning all parts of UWTSD.