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# INFECTION PREVENTION STRATEGIC STEERING GROUP

# Situation

The Infection Prevention Strategic Steering Group (IPSSG) has continued to meet monthly during Quarter 4 of 2020/21. Core agenda items include:

- COVID-19 outbreaks: From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Health Board has/is managing 44 Hospital Outbreaks
- Health Care Associated Infection (HCAI) Performance Report
- Alert Organisms Surveillance – Pseudomonas in Critical Care, Clostridium difficile Period of Increased Incidence (PII).
- Cleaning Standards
- Ventilation and Prevention of Airborne Transmission of Infection
- Antimicrobial Resistance

# Risks and Mitigation

- COVID-19 outbreaks: Assurance report presented to Quality, Safety and Experience Assurance Committee (QSEAC) in February 2021, HCAI Performance Report
- Outbreak of Pseudomonas in Critical Care (2 linked cases). Outbreak Control Group convened; source of outbreak traced to water outlet in newly established Augmented Care area. Controls were implemented and no further cases identified.
- Period of Increased Incidence of *C.diff* identified by genome sequencing. Incident Team established to investigate.
- Cleaning Standards:
  - Cleaning Standards baseline assessment submitted to Welsh Government (WG) together with a bid for £2.88million for the revised staffing framework.
  - Staffing structure reviewed - in addition to cleaning roles, there will be quality assurance, training and hygienist roles. Health Board wide Environmental Steering Group to be re-established.
  - Bid awaiting approval at WG level.
- Ventilation and Prevention of Airborne Transmission: Report discussed at Capital, Estates and Information Management & Technology (CEIM&T) Sub-Committee in January 2021 regarding compliance with the Welsh Health Circular, WHC(2018) 033: Airborne Isolation Room Requirements. This WHC outlines the minimum requirements that Health Boards should meet with regards to the provision of Negative Pressure Suites (NPS). Agreement to establish a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) to develop the strategic direction and plan for the provision of NPSs.

# Risks and Mitigation (cont'd)

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):
  - Report on antimicrobial prescribing in Primary Care identified a 24% increase in prescribing compared to the same period last year. The report has been circulated to GPs. IPSSG advised this was the lowest increase across all Health Boards in Wales and was attributable to alternative ways of working, e.g. Telemedicine and less face to face consultations.
  - Antibiotic usage in Secondary Care has been tracked against the WG targets using '*Antibiotic i*' and has demonstrated a reduction in antibiotic prescribing in all of the Health Board's acute hospitals.
  - AMR targets have been paused for 2021/22.
- Infection Reduction Expectations:
  - The Health Board is currently reporting reduced rates of infection across all 5 target areas. This is not reflected across Wales.
  - Infection Reduction Targets have not yet been published for 2021/22.

# Recommendation

For QSEAC to take an assurance from the presentation provided.