

## Regional Diagnostics Update Report (in absence of meeting)

15/01/2024

<b>Meeting Title</b>	ARCH Regional Diagnostics Programme Board
<b>Prepared by</b>	Lucy Blackman, ARCH Senior Project Support Rose Turrell, ARCH Service Planning Manager
<b>Update Reason</b>	This is in place of the postponed ARCH Regional Diagnostic Programme Board Meeting, which was due to take place on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024.
<b>Action Required</b>	The Regional Diagnostics Programme Board are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the update provided.</li> <li>• Confirm attendance for the next Programme Board Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.</li> <li>• Review the attached action log and provide relevant updates.</li> </ul>

### Purpose

This report has been produced to provide an update on the workstreams, which are part of the ARCH Regional Diagnostics Programme portfolio.

This report is in absence of a meeting which was due to be held on the 16/01/24. The next meeting of the Regional Diagnostics Programme Board is on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

### Endoscopy

The Endoscopy Board has not yet been able to meet under the auspices of ARCH, due to a combination of winter pressures leading to Business Continuity Incidents and industrial action. The next proposed date for an ARCH Regional Endoscopy Board Meeting is the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

Despite the difficulty convening as a board, the work which started at the Regional Endoscopy workshop in September 2023, has continued and both Health Board Service Managers are meeting regularly to discuss operational issues and immediate solutions to improve performance. As a result of the workshop, a draft work programme was produced by the ARCH PMO which has been shared with the clinicians and managers and is updated at relevant intervals.

Demand and Capacity (D&C) has been completed by each Health Board's Endoscopy teams and was submitted to the National Endoscopy Programme in October 2023.

The National Endoscopy Programme has been requested to support the development of a demand and capacity planning tool, which displays the regional data for the South West of Wales (ARCH region). A regional review of the D and C model will highlight these pressure points within the services and help to develop a strategic plan for the regional endoscopy workforce over the next 24 months.

### Next steps

- Full update on regional demand and capacity will be presented at the next Regional Diagnostic Programme Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.
- Regional demand and capacity will inform discussion and plans for Regional Endoscopy Strategic Workforce planning.
- The Endoscopy Board will be discussing the regionalisation opportunities for Bowel Screening Wales at its meeting in February.

## Radiology

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The ARCH Radiology Programme are in the process of managing a piece of in-depth work to develop a standardise demand and capacity dashboard.

SBUHB have worked with HDdUHB informatics teams to replicate the dashboard and the HDdUHB workforce team have been engaged to inform relevant elements. A task and finish group has been created to review the dashboard, which includes data from 2019, so that pre COVID-19 demand and activity.

Hywel Dda's Radiology Service Manager has confirmed that the Dashboard will go live imminently, entering validation stage. Service leads are meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 to compare and contrast their data, and to identify gaps and nuances. Once both HBs are assured that the data is robust, HDdUHB dashboard will go live and subsequently the data will be able to be viewed regionally.

### Next steps

- A full update on the validation of HDdUHB Radiology dashboard will be provided to the Regional Diagnostics Programme Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

## Neurophysiology

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From April 2024 Neurophysiology will be commissioned by WHSSC. A meeting took place in October 2023 to discuss with WHSSC colleagues how this could affect future plans on creating a Regional Neuroscience Service. WHSSC confirmed that ARCH should continue with its plans to create a Regional Service as this was along the wider the direction of travel for services.

The new Clinical Neurophysiology Service Manager, Laura Matthews, has been appointed at HDdUHB and is now in post. An introductory meeting took place on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

SBUHB are working towards the Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS) national accreditation process for standards of practice in Neurophysiology. Helena Morgan and colleagues are continuing to work towards all guides and protocols being standardised, which will eventually be used on an all-Wales basis.

### Next Steps

- Both Health Boards will undertake a stock take and inventory of equipment as well as gather data by the March 2024, which will be fed back to Welsh Government in a detailed document.

## Regional Diagnostics Data Group

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The aim for the ARCH Regional Diagnostics Data workstream is to manage and support the replication of the approach adopted by Radiology and apply it to the remaining modalities in the Regional Diagnostics programme, Endoscopy, Cardiac Diagnostics and Neurophysiology. Utilising the same toolkit and applying the same methodology will ensure a standardised approach to the retrieval, capture and display of a common dataset in each speciality, thus robustly informing regional and local demand and capacity modelling.

This work will address both Health Boards' challenges with in-house data visibility and create regional visibility. It will inform performance reporting and demand and capacity.

As mentioned above, the Radiology Programme is currently in its dashboard validation stage, after which it is anticipated that a working group of appropriate specialists will be convened to look at the practicalities of scaling this work across specialities.

## Strategic Direction for Regional Diagnostics

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Both Health Boards have their own way of managing the reporting and planning of their diagnostic services. HDdUHB are undergoing deep dive review of the services in their Clinical Service Plan, to which a report is being presented to the HDdUHB March Board for discussion.

In light of this and the consistent pressures in each speciality which impact on capacity in both managerial and clinical representation, it has been challenging to be clear on strategic intentions and to maintain

A meeting has been arranged between the Chief Operating Officers of both Health Boards and the Regional Diagnostic Programme Chair to discuss the strategic direction for this programme. This meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.