

## COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT/ ADRODDIAD DIWEDDARU'R PWYLLGOR

### Regional Joint Committee

Date of last meeting/ Dyddiad y cyfarfod diwethaf: 18 August 2025

Quoracy/ Cworwm: Met

Report by/ Adroddiad gan: Dr Neil Wooding CBE & Jan Williams CBE, Co-Chairs

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#### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND MATTERS FROM THE DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING/ PWYNTIAU TRAFOD ALLWEDDOL A MATERION I'W HUWCHGYFEIRIO O'R DRAFODAETH YN Y CYFARFOD:

**Alert<sup>1</sup>** (may require discussion)/ **Rhybuddio** (efallai y bydd angen trafodaeth)

- The Regional Joint Committee (RJC) did not identify any items to alert Hywel Dda UHB (HDdUHB) and Swansea Bay UHB (SBUHB) Public Boards.

**Advise<sup>2</sup>** (to monitor)/ **Cynghori** (i fonitro)

The RJC agreed to advise members of Hywel Dda UHB and Swansea Bay UHB Public Boards that:

- The Committee received a presentation by CGI on global perspectives and opportunities for artificial intelligence (AI) for both patients and health boards, highlighting the importance of responsible AI, innovation, and regional collaboration. The appetite and vision for regional AI planning and implementation would be further discussed at a workshop scheduled for September 2025.
- **Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC):** The Committee supported priorities identified in the UEC workshop, including a single point of access, AI-enabled predictive intelligence, digital patient directory, digital inclusion, and regional collaboration. A 90-day sprint is planned to develop a single point of access before winter 2025, with Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust (WAST) as a key partner. Discussions highlighted the need for clear outcomes, learning from recent improvements in SBUHB, and the importance of cultural and behavioural change for both staff and patients.
- **Pathology:** Progress continues in developing a regional diagnostic service hosted by SBUHB, with external support from Lifecycle Consulting. The Committee endorsed practical steps to urgently improve service and working

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<sup>1</sup> There is a lack of confidence that any action in place is sufficient to address the issue satisfactorily and/or within the scope of the operational team or executive to resolve. Engagement, action or intervention required.

<sup>2</sup> There are areas of concern where assurance has been taken on actions in place but requires close monitoring. An early warning of an emerging and potentially serious concern.

conditions and supported the appointment of a Clinical Director for improvement and transition. Assurance was received that work is well progressed in a cross organisational way to develop a robust range of benchmarked options with expert input in order to define a preferred way forward for regional pathology in South West Wales, initially with a focus on cellular pathology; a paper articulating the set of final Cellular Pathology recommendations would be prepared for presentation at the September 2025 SBUHB and HDdUHB Public Board meetings.

- **Clinical Services Planning:** The advances made in orthopaedics and eye care were welcomed, including joint theatre utilisation and single waiting lists. Challenges remain with regional implementation of OpenEyes (digital platform providing electronic patient record for ophthalmology) although both Health Boards are working together to implement live systems in September 2025 for SBUHB, and March 2026 for HDdUHB.
- **Data and Digital:** The phased approach to a regional digital strategy was endorsed, with a challenge to be more ambitious in scope and outcomes. AI will be incorporated, and a desktop exercise will be organised to draft a regional data and digital strategy based on the two individual Health Boards' existing ones.
- **Finance and Contracting:** A strategic review of resource allocation is underway, with a model to be brought forward for shadow revenue allocation in December 2025. This work will help to frame regional versus local financial responsibilities and lead to a reframing into a regional financial model. Specific timelines would be identified and reported back to the next RJC meeting.
- **Research, Innovation & Excellence:** Job descriptions for the previously agreed posts of Regional Director for Research, Development and Innovation, together with a Band 7 Project Manager to provide support, have now been defined, with pay scales and resourcing agreed. The Terms of Reference for delivery and oversight of the Research, Innovation and Excellence Sub-Group have also been agreed and it will be established in September/October 2025.
- **Regional Health Economy:** Progress on initiatives such as Warm Homes and the Social Model for Health and Wellbeing were welcomed. While work is already progressing in areas such as Warm Homes and long-term strategy refreshes, a more specific workshop on the health economy is planned for the spring of 2026. The need to work more closely with Public Health Wales for support and challenge was acknowledged.
- **Regional Joint Committee 2025/26 Work Programme:** The Committee noted the need for Sub-Groups to strengthen and update their work programmes, ensuring ambitions are clearly defined and timescales are specified for delivery in 2025/26. The Committee agreed that, following completion of the Sub-Group work programme updates requested, the overall Regional Joint Committee 2025/26 Work Programme will be strengthened and

revised work programmes will be presented at the next RJC meeting for approval and ratification.

### **Assure<sup>3</sup> (to note)/ Sicrhau (i nodi)**

The RJC agreed to **assure** members of Swansea Bay UHB and Hywel Dda UHB Boards that:

- Governance principles underpinning leadership, transitioning, and work programme development are being properly applied.
- Progress is being made across all Sub-Groups, with measurable outcomes and delivery expectations to be specified for the next meeting.
- Regional programmes are proceeding, with ongoing work taking place to ensure all programmes meet requirements.

### **Review of Risks/ Adolygiad o Risgiau**

- Not applicable

### **Sharing of learning/ Rhannu dysgu**

- Not applicable

### **Recommendation/ Argymhelliad**

That Swansea Bay UHB and Hywel Dda UHB Boards:

- **Consider** the report of the RJC meeting held on 18 August 2025, recognising progress made in regional collaboration and 2025/26 work programme development.
- **Receive** (identified separately on the September 2025 Public Boards' agenda) the paper articulating the set of final Cellular Pathology recommendations, for Board(s) approval.
- **Ratify** the approval and adoption of governance arrangements and endorse the direction of travel for all Regional Joint Committee Sub-Groups.

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<sup>3</sup> There is confidence that actions are robust and will be sufficient to address the issue or generally operating effectively. Routine monitoring.