Reference:	FOI.8468.22
Subject:	Allied Health Professions (AHP) workforce
Date of Request:	14 March 2022

Request and response:

The role of Director/Chief/Lead of AHPs is commonly described as *"Providing Workforce Leadership for Allied Health Professions, map the current AHP workforce across the trust, work with other trust AHP Directors and develop a strategic workforce plan for recruitment and retention of Allied Health Professions within the trust."*[1]

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is part of NHS Wales. It is an integrated Local Health Board responsible for the planning and provision of primary, community and in hospital services, based on the needs of the local community across three (3) counties and will provide the information it holds in relation to your request for the UHB below.

Section 1

1.1 Within your Trust, do you have a role that meets the above description?

☒ Yes
☐ No

If the answer is "Yes" answer section 2 only, and if the answer is "No" answer Section 3 only.

Section 2

2.1 What is title?

☐ Director of AHPs
☐ Chief AHP
☐ Lead AHP
☒ Other (please specify): <u>Executive Director of Therapies and Health Science</u>

2.2 When was the role of Director/Chief/Lead AHP or its equivalent first created within the Trust?

The UHB confirms that the Executive Director of Therapies and Health Science role was created in 2009.

2.3 Is there someone currently in this post?

☒ Yes
☐ No

If no, why not?

2.4. If yes, are they registered as an allied health professional (AHP)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

2.5 If yes, which profession?

☐ Art Therapist
☐ Drama therapist
☐ Music therapist
☐ Chiropodist/podiatrist
☒ Dietitian
☐ Occupational therapist
☐ Operating Department Practitioner
☐ Orthoptist
☐ Osteopath
☐ Paramedic
☐ Physiotherapist
☐ Prosthetist
☐ Orthotist
☐ Radiographer
☐ Speech and language therapist

2.6. If they are not registered as an AHP, what is their professional background?

2.7. Does this individual have a position on the Trust board?

☒ Yes

☐ No

2.8. Which Allied Healthcare professions are employed by your Trust?
(Please complete the table below)

	Select the AHP professions employed by your Trust	If your Trust employs this profession, select if the Director/Chief/Lead AHP or its equivalent leads/directs this profession
Art Therapists	☒	☒
Drama therapists	☐	☐
Music therapists	☐	☐
Chiropodists/podiatrists	☒	☒
Dietitians Occupational therapists	☒	☒
Operating Department Practitioners	☒	☒
Orthoptists	☒	☒

Osteopaths	☐	☐
Paramedics	☒	☒
Physiotherapists	☒	☒
Prosthetists	☐	☐
Orthotists	☒	☒
Radiographers	☒	☒
Speech and Language Therapists	☒	☒

Section 3

It has been shown that *"there are benefits to improvement activity, as well as to the visibility and influence of the AHP workforce on the Trust's priorities when there is a designated AHP lead"*, and that these roles should be put in place in each Trust[1,2].

3.1. Do you expect to advertise/create a job role meeting the above description within the next 6 months?

☐   Yes
☐   No

3.2. If no, are you planning to advertise/create this role in the long term 12-24 months?

☐   Yes
☐   No

3.3 If no, what has been the main barrier/s that are preventing a job role meeting the above description from being created in the long term (12-24months)?

3.4. Is your Trust aware of the NHS England and NHS Improvement strategy (2019 *Investing in chief allied health professionals: insights from trust executives.*) to have designated AHP leads?

☐   Yes
☐   No

References:

1.   NHS England and NHS Improvement. Investing in chief allied health professionals: insights from trust executives. 2019;(July). https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/investing-chief-allied-health-professionals/
2.   NHS England and NHS Improvement. *Developing Allied Health Professional Leaders: A Guide for Trust Boards and Clinicians.*; 2019.