

**COFNODION CYMERADWY O GYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL BLYNYDDOL BWRDD IECHYD
Y BRIFYSGOL/
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Date of Meeting: **Thursday 25 September 2025**
Venue: **Y Stiwdio Fach, Canolfan S4C Yr Egin, College Road,
Carmarthen SA31 3EQ**

Present: Dr Neil Wooding, Chair, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Mrs Eleanor Marks, Vice-Chair, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Mr Maynard Davies, Independent Member (Information Technology)
Cllr. Rhodri Evans, Independent Member (Local Authority)
Mr Michael Imperato, Independent Member (Legal)
Ms Ann Murphy, Independent Member (Trade Union)
Mrs Chantal Patel, Independent Member (University)
Ms Sarah Harraway, Independent Member (Community)
Mr Iwan Thomas, Independent Member (Third Sector)
Professor Philip Kloer, Chief Executive
Mrs Lisa Gostling, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Workforce
and Organisational Development
Mr Gareth Cottrell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer (deputising for Mr Andrew
Carruthers, Chief Operating Officer)
Ms Sharon Daniel, Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient
Experience
Mr Lee Davies, Executive Director of Strategy and Planning
Dr Ardiana Gjini, Executive Director of Public Health
Mr Mark Henwood, Executive Medical Director
Mr James Severs, Executive Director of Allied Health Professions and Health
Science
Mr Huw Thomas, Executive Director of Finance
In Attendance: Mrs Joanne Wilson, Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary
Ms Alwena Hughes-Moakes, Communications and Engagement Director
Ms Claire Evans, Committee Services Officer (Minutes)

Minutes Ref.	Item	Action
AGM(25)01	Introduction and Apologies/Cyflwyniad ac Ymddiheuriadau (llafar) Mr Neil Wooding, Chair, welcomed everyone to the Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) Annual General Meeting and outlined the format of proceedings. Apologies for absence were received from: Ms Anna Lewis, Independent Member (Community) Mr Winston Weir, Independent Member (Finance) Ms Mwape Burke, Aspiring Board Member Mr Andrew Carruthers, Chief Operating Officer Mr Jonathan Arthur, Chair, Healthcare Professionals Forum	

AGM(25)02

Presentation of Hywel Dda Health Charities Report/Cyflwyno Adroddiad Elusennau Iechyd Hywel Dda

Mr Iwan Thomas, Independent Board Member and Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee (CFC) dedicated the summary of achievements to people who had generously given their time to fundraise on behalf of the charity. He acknowledged the efforts of individuals who have engaged with and supported the work of Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB). Mr Thomas also commended the Hywel Dda Charities Team for their diligent oversight of applications and ensure that charitable funds are allocated appropriately and effectively. .

A video was then presented, which provided a 'snapshot' of activities during the previous year. Those attending heard that:

- Income for 204/25 was £1.99m, made up of donations, legacies, trading, investments and grants.
- Total expenditure exceeded £2.61m, supporting initiatives such as enhancing patient comfort, investment in medical equipment, improvements to care environments , strengthening care in local communities and the wellbeing and development of staff.
- Donations contributed to enhancing care, improving experiences and supporting outcomes for over 13,000 staff, a population of 390,000, across four acute hospitals, five community hospitals and two integrated care centres.
- Examples of items funded included:
 - Over £43,000 was invested on a state of the art ultrasound system for the Intensive Care Unit at Glangwili Hospital.
 - £46,000 funded a cutting edge probe for the Respiratory Medicines service in Prince Phillip Hospital.
 - The new Leri cancer unit at Bronglais Hospital opened in May 2025, was made possible by generous support for the Bronglais Chemo Appeal.
 - Ten ambulatory heart monitors, valued at over £13,000 were provided for Withybush Hospital's Cardio-Respiratory Department.
 - More than £60,000 supported interactive arts activities for inpatients with dementia across the Health Board.
 - £4,000 enabled ten young people receiving mental health support to participate in a 10-session surf therapy programme.

AGM(25)03

Presentation of Annual Report 2024-2025, including Annual Accounts and Duty of Quality and Duty of Candour Report /Cyflwyno Adroddiad Blynnyddol 2024-2025, gan gynnwys Cyfrifon

Professor Philip Kloer, Chief Executive, presenting the Health Board Annual Report covering the period 2023/24.

Introducing the presentation, Professor Kloer highlighted the scale and significance of the Health Board's work, serving a population of nearly 385,000, across three counties, and employing over 13,000 staff.

The second slide detailed the Health Board's Vision with plans to refresh the "A Healthier Mid and West Wales" strategy which was originally developed in 2017; the strategy provides a stronger, joined-up health and care system; support more patients at, or closer to, home in Hywel Dda communities; and improve services by providing safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and person-centred care and outcomes.

Professor Kloer acknowledged that the construction of a new hospital is unlikely to commence for at least 10-15 years. In the meantime, the Health Board must focus on improving its fragile services. The Clinical Services Plan consultation to discuss those services has recently closed, with the outcome due to be presented to Board in February 2026.

The next slide detailed challenges experienced by the Health Board including workforce shortages and financial pressures; high demand for urgent and emergency care; long waiting times for patients; and the performance improvements required. Professor Kloer expressed thanks to staff, volunteers, partners and communities who have experienced these challenges. Professor Kloer also acknowledged that waiting times remained too long and apologised to those who have been affected.

It was highlighted that progress had been achieved in addressing some of these challenges, alongside delivering savings; reducing carbon emissions through sustainable practices; and advancing research and development initiatives. Professor Kloer also provided an update on the remedial work undertaken in relation to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) at Withybush General Hospital, resulting in the majority of clinical areas now being fully operational. Other areas of progress included extended opening hours of the Same Day Urgent Care Service in Ceredigion, and the introduction of a Fracture Liaison Service. He also expressed thanks to Health Board pharmacists for their hard work, noting that 62,000 patient consultations have been undertaken in our community pharmacies, compared to 43,000 the previous year. Furthermore, 25,700 consultations have taken place within our pharmacy independent prescribing service, an increase of 12,000 from the year before. Recognising it was World Pharmacy Day, The Board thanked our pharmacists for the vital role they undertake.

Moving on to the Auditor General for Wales's Opinion, Professor Kloer reported that while an unqualified opinion was issued, a qualified regularity opinion was received due to a deficit remaining

at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. As a result, the Health Board was unable to achieve approval of an Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP).

Moving on to the annual accounts which had been subject to audit by Audit Wales. It had been determined that the accounts represent a clear, fair and transparent view. Professor Kloer provided a summary of the organisation's finances. The Health Board delivered over £30m savings, reducing the deficit to £24.1m, an overall improvement of £42m since 2023/24.

During the year, £1.434m was spent on services. The Health Board received £1.332m in funding from Welsh Government, supplemented by £78m from other sources. The financial target relating to creditor payments has been achieved with at least 96.7% of all non-NHS creditors paid within 30 days of receiving goods or invoices, an improvement on the 2023/24 performance. However, challenges remain in containing revenue expenditure within the allocated revenue resource limit.

Throughout 2024/25 the Health Board had continued to review and identify areas for improvement to ensure it can meet its duty of quality and provide quality services for patients. Professor Kloer highlighted the Maternity and Neonatal Risk and Governance Team who recently won three awards at the 2025 UK MUM (Maternity Unit Marvels) Awards, including the National Award for the Workforce category, relating to their work in improving maternity safety and changing workplace culture around adverse events.

It was noted that the Annual Quality and Duty of Candour reports are available on the Health Board website.

The next slide detailed the Health Board's commitment to its staff including international recruitment successes; workforce development and training; equality, diversity, and inclusion staff training; and Welsh language inclusion and skills. Professor Kloer highlighted the dedication, innovation and hard work of Health Board staff, who have been recognised by a number of awards over the years. This included the Nuclear Medicines Team's Walter the penguin video to assure children in their care, the PROSTAD (prostate cancer rapid diagnosis pathway) joint initiative to reduce delays in diagnosing prostate cancer, Hywel Dda was the first health board in Wales to achieve autism friendly understanding status, and the health visiting service maintained its UNICEF baby-friendly accreditation for the fourth year running, the Nutrition and Dietetics service retained its top nutrition screeners award, and clinician Trudy Smith was selected as Health and Care Research Wales' new national Specialty Lead for Reproductive Health and Childbirth.

The Health Board continues to work with young people, engaging with 8567 pupils including 2855 through the medium of Welsh, covering all secondary schools within the Hywel Dda area.

The Staff Wellbeing Service received 35,000 visits during 2024 and 64 staff have attended Recovery In Nature wellbeing retreats.

In terms of partnership working, the Health Board collaborates with neighbouring health boards, local authorities, universities third sector and voluntary organisations to address a wide range of issues. An Arts and Health Charter has been launched, the first in Wales, and a number of community engagement and consultations have taken place. Professor Kloer also highlighted the Delta Wellbeing and Home First team where teams from the Health Board, local council and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) working together to provide out of hospital care in Carmarthenshire. However, great progress is being made in Hywel Dda working with partners to provide care closer to home.

Looking ahead, the Health Board's Annual Plan 2025-26 aims to focus on financial recovery; workforce stability; service transformation; refreshing our strategic vision; and continued focus on sustainability and innovation.

The Health Board joined partners in signing the Social Model Health and Wellbeing charter in 2025. Other examples of the commitment to wellbeing includes the development of a health and wellbeing centre in Cross Hands; Pentre Awel; the Carmarthen Hub; and Ceredigion physiotherapy work on providing treatment closer to home.

At this point, a video review of the year was shown.

AGM(25)04

Question and Answer Session/ Sesiwn Holi ac Ateb

Dr Wooding opened the proceedings to any questions from attendees, however, no questions were raised.

AGM(25)05

Hywel's Applause 2025/ Cymeradwyaeth Hywel 2025

Dr Wooding introduced the Hywel's Applause awards ceremony.

AGM(25)06

Meeting Closes/ Cyfarfod yn cloi

Dr Wooding concluded the meeting by thanking all of those present and those watching online.