



**CYFARFOD BWRDD PRIFYSGOL IECHYD
UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD MEETING**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	31 July 2025
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Report of the Chair
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Dr Neil Wooding CBE, Chair
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Dr Neil Wooding CBE, Chair

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

To provide an update to the Board on relevant matters undertaken by the Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board (the Health Board) since the previous Board meeting.

Cefndir / Background

This overarching report highlights the key areas of activity and strategic issues engaged in by the Chair and also details topical areas of interest to the Board.

Asesiad / Assessment

National Volunteers Week

National Volunteers Week takes place from 1-7 June every year and is a chance to recognise the fantastic contribution volunteers make to our communities and to say thank you. Across the Health Board invaluable 'Volunteering for Health' volunteers give their time freely to support patients, services, and departments to improve the experience of patients in our hospitals. Volunteering is a fantastic way to find out about the work involved in healthcare and provides real life experience of interacting with patients and visitors. Volunteer support can be something as simple as chatting with a patient or helping visitors to find the right ward at visiting times. You could be a pharmacy volunteer, befriender, working with our shop or library trollies - or in a clinical setting such as a children's ward or emergency department. For more information about volunteering or work experience opportunities with the Health Board, visit hduhb.nhs.wales/working-for-us/volunteer-and-work-experience-hub

Deaths in Service

I am very sad to report the death of two respected colleagues. Sian Mills worked as a Specialist Nurse Practitioner in the Manual Handling Team in Carmarthen, having been employed by the Health Board since 2002. Lauren Davies, who worked as a School Nurse, sadly passed away having been employed by the Health Board since 2012. I wish to express my sincere condolences on behalf of the Board and the organisation to family, friends and colleagues of Sian and Lauren.

Death of a Colleague

Tributes have flooded in for Timothy Minett, known by his family and friends as Tim, a volunteer NHS Blood Bike rider in his 70s who died in a collision on 2 July 2025, while delivering urgent medical supplies in Pembrokeshire. Described as a "hero" and "blood angel," Tim was part of Blood Bikes Wales, one of 36 volunteer-run groups providing vital transport services for the NHS. On behalf of the Board, I wish to express my deep condolences to Tim's family, friends and colleagues.

Board Seminar 19 June 2025

NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) Update

The NWJCC provided its annual update to HDdUHB. The NWJCC, established from 1 April 2024 as a joint committee of the seven health boards of NHS Wales, which acts collectively on their behalf, highlighted its evolving governance, strategic planning, and commitment to equitable service delivery, particularly in rural areas. Key updates included the development of a Mission Statement, ongoing recruitment, and the establishment of assurance mechanisms and subcommittees. Concerns were raised about under-investment in specialist services, the balance between centralisation and local care, and the need for value for money. Members discussed renal service development, benchmarking, and feedback mechanisms, with NWJCC reaffirming its focus on collaboration, transparency, and strategic alignment across Wales.

Clinical Services Plan

The Clinical Services Plan (CSP) discussion emphasised the need for clearer alignment between strategic opportunities and governance roles. Whilst the plan is clinically-led and supported by engagement efforts, evidenced by over 800 completed questionnaires; challenges remain in achieving consensus on specific changes. Emphasis was placed on transparent communication, equitable implementation, and collaboration with external partners. Concerns around transport, community trust, and existing care inequities were acknowledged, with recognition that funding alone is insufficient to address systemic challenges across our system.

Fragile Services

A new framework is being developed to assess service fragility, integrating with existing NHS oversight structures to identify and escalate risks early. It combines fragility and risk scores, uses visual tools for team performance, and includes a tiered escalation process. A central SharePoint site tracks progress, and oversight is provided by a dedicated group. Concerns were raised about inconsistent definitions, normalisation of fragility, and the need for action beyond identification. The Board welcomed the framework's transparency and suggested wider sharing to support broader adoption.

Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC)

An accelerated programme is reshaping urgent and emergency care to reduce pressures in emergency departments by improving access to alternative services. Key actions include 24/7 triage hubs, community-based care, and digital tools, supported by clinical leadership and collaboration. Challenges include breaking down service barriers, ensuring staff readiness, and embedding measurable outcomes. The Board supported the initiative, recognising the need for collective effort and sustainable implementation.

Strategy Refresh - Design Principles

The importance of refining design principles to ensure greater clarity and more effective alignment of work streams was acknowledged. Focus was placed on enhancing staff engagement, improving patient communication, and addressing systemic challenges impacting service quality. Recommendations included implementing customer service training,

recognising staff contributions, and expanding consideration to non-clinical services. While the strategic direction was deemed appropriate, further refinement is needed, with plans for continued discussion at a future Board Seminar.

Key Meetings

I have attended the following meetings:

- ENFYS Staff Network
- Protect Bronglais Hospital (BGH) Public Meeting
- Chair Peer Group
- Pembrokeshire Peninsula Stakeholder Group
- Meeting with Glangwili Hospital (GGH) League of Friends

Events/Visits

- On 2 June 2025, the Vice-Chair joined colleagues to welcome the Cabinet Secretary on a visit to Aberaeron Integrated Care Centre (ICC)
- On 3 June 2025, the Vice-Chair visited staff in Maternity at GGH
- On 5 June 2025, the Vice-Chair visited staff in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Withybush Hospital (WGH)
- On 12 June 2025, I attended the NHS Confed Expo 2025
- On 1 July 2025, the Vice-Chair visited a number of care home in Pembrokeshire
- On 4 July 2025, the Vice-Chair attended the All-Wales Planning Event in Lampeter
- On 10 July 2025, I attended an event to present Long Service Awards to staff
- On 8 July 2025, I attended the Ceredigion County Council Clinical Services Plan (CSP) Event
- On 28 July 2025, I attended the Pembrokeshire County Council CSP Event

Celebrating Success/Awards

Long Service Awards

In 2019, the Long Service Awards were introduced in recognition of staff who have given the most hours, days and years to serving the local NHS across different professions across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The aim was to celebrate staff who have reached milestones working within the NHS. Our Independent Members have been privileged to meet the following individuals personally to present them with their award, listen to their experiences during their 40 years of service and to thank them on behalf of the Board.

Employee	Job Title	Base
Mark Thomas	Healthcare Support Worker (HCSW)	GGH
Mike Swann	Reporting Radiographer	WGH
Mandy Thomas	Senior Pharmacy Assistant Technical Officer	Pharmacy Department WGH
Gareth Thomas	Senior Operating Practitioner	GGH
Polly Williams	Staff Nurse	BGH
Victoria Stevenson	Band 6 physiotherapist	Amman Valley Hospital
Julie Hughes	Health Visitor	Neyland
Jacqui Saunders	Health Visitor	Narberth
Julie Hyland	Health Visitor	Flying Start Centre, Pennar
Tina Amphlett	Health visitor	Flying Start Centre, Pennar
Barbara Walters	Health Visitor	Flying Start Centre, Pennar

2025 King's Birthday Honours

Anwen Butten, Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist at GGH, has been awarded an MBE in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours in recognition of her exceptional contributions to sport, nursing and cancer care. With a 30-year career marked by compassion and clinical excellence, Anwen is also a celebrated international bowls player and former Team Wales captain. This honour recognises her dedication to patients, her profession, and her sporting achievements.

Advancing Healthcare Awards 2025

Congratulations to Craig Baker, Cellular Pathology and Mortuary Service Manager at the Health Board, who has been honoured with a prestigious national healthcare award. On 23 May 2025, Craig received the Biomedical Scientist of the Year title at the Advancing Healthcare Awards 2025, during a special ceremony held in London. These awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of healthcare scientists, allied health professionals, and their colleagues across the UK.

Welsh Veterans Awards 2025

On behalf of the Health Board, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Senior Nurse Manager David Hawkings, who was awarded Reservist of the Year (Gold) at the Welsh Veterans Awards 2025. David has exemplified the balance between military and civilian service, having served nearly 30 years in the Armed Forces Reserves alongside a 44-year career with the Health Board. His leadership, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and his dedication to both healthcare and the military, highlight the valuable synergy between the NHS and the Armed Forces. We thank David for his remarkable contributions and wish him well in his retirement from the Reserves.

West Wales Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Team of the Year

The Early Years Integration Team has been named 'West Wales RPB Team of the Year' for their exceptional collaborative work supporting families and young children in the Gwendraeth Valley, Carmarthenshire. This multi-agency team comprising midwives, health visitors, and family support workers, supports over 1,100 families through early intervention, wellbeing initiatives, and community-based services. Their award recognises the team's measurable impact and dedication to providing children with the best start in life through integrated, community-focused support.

Thrombosis UK Award

BGH has received national recognition from Thrombosis UK for its exceptional efforts in reducing the risk of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE), or blood clots, in patients. The hospital was presented with the 'Work in VTE Prevention' award during a ceremony at the House of Commons, celebrating the achievements of Dr Annette Snell and her multidisciplinary team. Through initiatives such as improved risk assessments, staff education, and routine audits, the team has made significant strides in enhancing patient safety. The award reflects their dedication, innovation, and measurable impact in preventing hospital-acquired thrombosis.

2025 NHS Wales Sustainability Awards

The North and South Pembrokeshire Clusters were nationally recognised at the 2025 NHS Wales Sustainability Awards for their innovative project, *Lessons in Asthma*, which improves respiratory care for primary school children. The initiative delivers structured asthma reviews in schools, empowering children, families, and staff, resulting in better asthma control, fewer emergency visits, greener prescribing, and reduced travel emissions. Involving all 52 Pembrokeshire schools, the project aligns with the Health Board's commitment to sustainable, community-based care and supports Wales' goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The

award highlights the project's success in combining patient-centred care with environmental responsibility.

Hywel Dda Hywel Dda Medical Education Awards

We are delighted to announce the recipients of this year's Hywel Dda Medical Education Trainer and Trainee of the Year Awards, now in their second year.

Trainer of the Year 2025 has been awarded to Mr. Antony Howarth, Consultant in Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery and Honorary Senior Lecturer at GGH. Nominated by the GGH Medical Education Support Staff Team, Mr. Howarth is recognised for his exceptional dedication to teaching and mentorship. His unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality, inclusive training has left a lasting impression on both students and trainees. This award is a fitting tribute to his outstanding leadership and contributions to medical education.

Trainee of the Year 2025 has been awarded to Dr. Ayman Wafy, Core Trainee in Psychiatry at WGH, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to clinical care, education, and professional development. Dr. Wafy has consistently demonstrated excellence in teamwork, a strong commitment to learning, and a proactive approach to quality improvement. His positive influence has enriched the educational environment and helped strengthen the Health Board's reputation for medical training.

Independent Member Update

I am pleased to announce that, following approval by the Minister for Health and Social Services, Maynard Davies has been re-appointed as Independent Member (Information Technology) from 1 December 2025 until 30 November 2027. This is wonderful news for our Board. Maynard's unwavering dedication and commitment have been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward, and we are incredibly grateful for his continued dedication, support and contributions.

Aspiring Board Members Programme

I am delighted to welcome Mwape Burke to the Board. Mwape is participating in the Aspiring Board Members Programme which the Health Board is supporting. I am grateful to Anna Lewis and Lisa Gostling for mentoring Mwape over the next 12 months. The Aspiring Board Members Programme is a 12-month leadership development programme designed to support and prepare people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds for Independent Board Member Roles within health bodies in Wales. The programme seeks to enable a wider diversity of individuals to play their part in the future of NHS Wales. The programme includes learning events, board placements, and independent leadership coaching.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Board is asked to **SUPPORT** the work engaged in by the Chair since the previous meeting and note the topical areas of interest.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol:
Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:

Not Applicable

Parthau Ansawdd:
Domains of Quality

Not Applicable

Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	1. Leadership 2. Culture and valuing people
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	Not Applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	Not Applicable
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	6. Contribute to global well-being through developing international networks and sharing of expertise 8. Transform our communities through collaboration with people, communities and partners

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Chairman's Diary and Correspondence
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Included within the body of the Report
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Cyfarfod Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to University Health Board:	Chairman

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	No impact
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Ensuring the Board and its Committees make fully informed decisions is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of the information presented and considered by those making decisions. Informed decisions are more likely to impact favourably on the quality, safety and experience of patients and staff.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	No impact
Risg: Risk:	No impact
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	No impact

Enw Da: Reputational:	No impact
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	No impact
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	No EqIA is considered necessary for a paper of this type.