

**COFNODION Y CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL BLYNYDDOL BWRDD IECHYD Y BRIFYSGOL
HEB EU CYMERADWYO/UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date of Meeting: **Thursday 30 July 2026**
Venue: **Ceredigion County Council Chambers, Penmorfa, Aberaeron,
Ceredigion SA46 0PA**

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

Minutes Ref.	Item	Action
AGM(26)01	Introduction and Apologies / Cyflwyniad ac Ymddiheuriadau 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 • Mr Neil Prior, Independent Member (Community) • Mr Lee Davies, Executive Director of Strategy and Planning • Dr Jonathan Arthur, Healthcare Professionals Forum Chair • Mr Michael Gray, Associate Board Member • Mr Tegryn Jones, Stakeholder Reference Group Chair	

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 individuals who had generously given their time to fundraise on behalf of the charity. He acknowledged the efforts of individuals who had engaged with and supported the work of Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB).

A video was then presented, which provided a 'snapshot' of activities during the previous year, with the following noted:

- Income for 205/26 was £1.56m, made up of donations, legacies, trading, investments and grants.
- Total expenditure exceeded £1.77m, 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:
 - Furniture worth £6000 for the staff and day rooms in Merlin Ward at Glangwili Hospital.
 - Ten Eclipse Pro Extended Halter Recorders with over £8,300 for use in the Cardio-respiratory Department at Prince Philip Hospital.
 - A transfer monitor with over £4,500 for the Critical Care Unit at Bronglais Hospital.
 - Two Handheld Vein Viewing Systems worth over £9,000 for the Same Day Emergency Care Unit and the Outpatients Department at Withybush Hospital.
 - Six new scalp cooling units worth over £113,000 for cancer patients across our acute hospitals.
 - Educational resources worth over £5,500 for patients across the Health Board area with type 1 diabetes.

Annual Report 2025-2026, incorporating Duty of Quality and Duty of Candour / Adroddiad Blynyddol 2025-2026, yn ymgorffori Dyletswydd Ansawdd a Dyletswydd Gonestrwydd

Introducing the presentation, Professor Phil Kloer highlighted the scale and significance of the Health Board's work, serving a population of circa 380,000 across three counties, and employing over 13,000 staff. The Health Board serves a large and geographically dispersed population across Wales, which presents particular service delivery challenges. Care is provided through four hospitals and a broad network of community and primary care facilities.

Professor Kloer outlined the Health Board's vision and plans to refresh the "A Healthier Mid and West Wales" Strategy which is structured on four strategic objectives: thriving teams, healthier communities, great care, and positive futures, and also the 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 required performance improvements.

In terms of key priorities for 2026/27, there would be a focus on three priority areas: improving quality of care' building foundations on workforce and changing how care is delivered over the longer term. The Health Board builds on striving for quality and seeks to use feedback more effectively to help improve services.

Professor Kloer outlined the Health Board's duty of candour, emphasising the importance of being open and transparent listening to difficult feedback and continually learning from errors to improve services and patient outcomes. The Health Board is working to improve learning from incidents to make care safer, including escalation, record keeping, communication and recognising deterioration. The Health Board is also using shared themes to improve services.

Progress has been made during the year, and Professor Kloer expressing pride at the progress made, including improvements in cancer and mental health services. While progress has been made to improve the financial position there was acknowledgement that further improvement is required.

Moving on to the annual accounts which had been subject to external audit by Audit Wales and had received confirmation they represented a clear, fair and transparent view of the Health Board's financial position, Mr Huw Thomas provided an overview of the Health Board's finances, highlighting a reduction in the reported deficit to £22m. During the year, £1,465m was spent on services. The Health Board received £1,360m in funding from Welsh Government, supplemented by £83m from other sources.

While the Health Board has experienced significant challenges during the year, resulting in the Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP) not being approved, it continued to demonstrate strong financial governance in key areas. In particular, the target relating to creditor payments was achieved with 96.6% of all non-NHS creditors paid within 30 days of receiving goods or invoices.

Mr Thomas thanked all colleagues and partners for their continued work over the previous year.

The Health Board is committed 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 acknowledged the dedication and hard work of staff across the organisation,

highlighting their ongoing contribution to maintaining services and delivering high-quality care for patients and communities.

In terms of partnership working, the Health Board collaborates with neighbouring health boards, local authorities, universities third sector and voluntary organisations in order to address a wide range of issues.

Looking ahead, the Health Board's Annual Plan 2026-27 aims to focus on improving access and patient flow, quality and patient experience, workforce stability and financial recovery. The plan also provides a clear strategic direction for the years ahead. Professor Kloer emphasised the Health Board's commitment to maintaining ambitious aspirations and driving continuous improvement to deliver the best possible care and services for the population.

Professor Kloer formally thanked everyone who has made the Health Board's achievements possible during the year.

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

AGM(26)04

Question and Answer Session/ Sesiwn Holi ac Ateb

Mr Wooding opened the proceedings to any questions from attendees.

A question was submitted by Sarah Dowle:

"Having been born and raised in Pembrokeshire and a director of a Welsh-headquartered healthcare organisation, I am keen to understand how the Health Board has applied the principles of the Welsh Government's Foundational Economy agenda within its commissioning and procurement decisions. Could the Board explain how it assesses the economic and social value of awarding contracts to providers based outside Wales, and what weighting is given to supporting Welsh businesses, local employment, and reinvestment into the Welsh economy when compared with providers headquartered elsewhere?"

Mr Thomas responded that the Health Board is committed to supporting the principles of the Welsh Government's Foundational Economy agenda and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 through its commissioning and procurement activities. These principles are embedded within our procurement approach to ensure that public spending delivers wider economic, social and environmental benefits for the communities we serve.

In accordance with the Procurement Act 2023 and applicable procurement regulations, contracts cannot be awarded or weighted in favour of organisations solely on the basis of their geographic location or whether they are headquartered in Wales.

Therefore, the Health Board does not apply a predetermined weighting for Welsh suppliers or local organisations.

Instead, procurements are evaluated against published criteria which typically consider a combination of technical quality, social value and commercial factors. NWSSP procurement guidance incorporates a minimum 10% weighting for Social Value within procurement exercises, and this weighting may be increased where this is proportionate to the subject matter of the contract and there is an opportunity to secure greater benefits for communities and the wider public sector. Consistent with this approach, the Health Board seeks to ensure that social value considerations are assessed alongside technical quality and commercial requirements as part of a balanced evaluation process.

Through Social Value and Foundational Economy requirements, bidders may be asked to demonstrate how they will contribute to local employment, skills development, community wellbeing, environmental sustainability, volunteering initiatives, community engagement, and wider economic resilience within Wales. Where appropriate, these commitments are incorporated into contractual obligations and monitored throughout the life of the contract.

When assessing bids from organisations based both within and outside Wales, the Health Board focuses on the quality of the proposed service, value for money, and the extent to which bidders can deliver measurable social value outcomes for the population served. The emphasis is therefore on the benefits that a provider will bring to Welsh communities and local economies, rather than where the organisation is headquartered. This ensures compliance with procurement legislation while supporting the objectives of the Foundational Economy and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Mr Iwan Thomas noted that the Health Board's role in the foundational economy aligns closely with the circular economy. With 13,000 staff employed across the region, the Health Board makes a significant contribution to the local economy through employment, household income and spending within local businesses and services. He highlighted that, while procurement regulations and specialist healthcare requirements can influence contracting arrangements, the Health Board actively supports the third and community sectors through funding for bespoke projects that deliver both economic and social benefits, including skills development and training opportunities. The Health Board also works closely with university and further education partners to support apprenticeships and workforce development. Mr Thomas emphasised that the foundational economy should not be viewed in isolation, rather as part of the wider circular economy, to which the Health Board makes a substantial contribution.

Thanking Mr Thomas, the Chair noted that this demonstrates how closely it aligns with the Health Board's Social Model of Health agenda.

AGM(26)05

Meeting Closes/ Cyfarfod yn cloi

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