
Minutes of the Board Meeting, 26 January 2018

Present:

Permanent Secretary (Chair)
Andrew Goodall
Caren Fullerton (Deputising for
Tracey Burke)
Andrew Slade
David Richards
Gawain Evans
Natalie Pearson
Elan Closs Stephens
Ann Keane
James Turner
Peter Kennedy
Jeff Godfrey
Dean Medcraft
Gillian Baranski
Lynne Schofield

In attendance:

Jo Salway (Item 1)
Toby Mason (Item 1)
Simon Brindle (Item 4)
Piers Bisson (Item 4)
Peter Ryland (Item 4)
Sharon Cross (Item 5)

Secretariat:

Sarita Marshall
Rob Jones

Welsh Government Performance

1. Prosperity for All - Governance Arrangements [Board(18)001]

- 1.1 Jo Salway, Head of Cabinet Office, presented a paper outlining proposals for an accountability and assurance model for the delivery of *Prosperity for All*, including a structured approach to accountability and monitoring. The continuing role of the Board in monitoring delivery of *Prosperity for All* and the role and remit of the Directors Group was also discussed.
- 1.2 It was agreed that communications and engagement should be considered at the Directors Group.
- 1.3 Jo Salway and her team were thanked for the excellent work undertaken.

2 Economic Action Plan [Oral]

- 2.1 Andrew Slade gave a presentation on the Economic Action Plan (EAP), which was the first action plan to come from *Prosperity for All* and was published in December 2017. The Board heard that, in developing the plan, key principles around alignment and ownership had been

established. It was agreed that the EAP was a template that could be learned from and that the presentation should also be given to Business Group.

3 Finance Report [Board(18)002]

- 3.1 Gawain Evans, Director of Finance, outlined the in-year financial position, including the 2017-18 forecast outturn.
- 3.2 The Board noted that changes to processes had already delivered improvements, and Gawain and colleagues across Groups were congratulated on the level of accuracy achieved in forecasting.

Corporate

4 EU Transition & EU Structural Funds Update [Board(18)003]

- 4.1 Piers Bisson, Director - European Transition, and Simon Brindle, Deputy Director - European Transition, provided an update on progress around European Union (EU) Transition matters. The Board heard that that the *Regional Investment in Wales after Brexit* paper had been well received by stakeholders.
- 4.2 Piers wished to record his thanks to Jeff Godfrey, Director of Legal Services Department, and his team for their excellent support.
- 4.3 Peter Ryland, Deputy Director, Programme Performance & Finance, provided an update on the position with EU Structural Funds.
- 4.4 The Board heard that the Commission had indicated they were pleased with the progress of the Welsh programmes in all respects.
- 4.5 The Board congratulated Peter Ryland and his team on the progress of the programmes.

5 Taking Action on People Survey Results [Board(18)004]

- 5.1 Natalie Pearson, Head of Engagement & Innovation, was joined by Sharon Cross, Head of Corporate Research Team, to provide an update on work being taken forward as a result of the People Survey 2017 results.
- 5.2 The Board heard that the Future-proofing Initiative would review and refresh the approach to Learning & Development and that an independent review would be undertaken by Non-executive Director, James Turner, on the effectiveness of the policies, procedures and communications that the organisation has in place to promote dignity and respect at work and deal with all forms of inappropriate behaviour.
- 5.3 The Board considered feedback from Directors on action that should be taken to respond to the People Survey results and agreed that action should be on the lower-performing areas of Learning and Development, Working Together Across Wales, and Leadership,

including Change Management. It was also agreed that consideration should be given to the setting of targets in these areas.

- 5.4 It was agreed that clear messages to staff should be communicated on the action that would be taken, including information on the rollout of Flexible Working, the wellbeing hour, the review being undertaken by James Turner and the opportunity to engage with that, and changes to performance management arrangements.

Regular Items

6. Permanent Secretary's Items & Exception Reports [Oral]

- 6.1 Andrew Goodall, Director General Health & NHS Chief Executive, gave a brief update from his Group, including NHS Wales' response to the exceptional winter pressures, and the publication of the final report of the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care in Wales. He also reported on the recent IT outage experienced in the NHS. Organisations had reverted to business continuity plans and the situation was stabilised within 3.5 hours.

7. Sub-Committee Updates [Oral]

- 7.1 Dean Medcraft, Chair of Operations Committee, reported on the last meeting, which had included consideration of the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations, which would need to be in place by May 2018. The Committee also discussed proposals for new governance arrangements.
- 7.2 James Turner, Chair of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) Remuneration Committee, reported on the last meeting, where a presentation on the work of the Economic Infrastructure Department was given, and the recruitment of Deputy Directors was discussed.
- 7.3 David Richards, Chair of the Legislative Programme Board, gave an update on the legislative programme.
- 7.4 In closing, the Permanent Secretary reflected on her first year in post, saying she had very much enjoyed her time so far in the role, and thanked the Board for their support.

Permanent Secretary's Private Office, 29 January 2018