

Department for Health & Social Services
2013/14 Annual Update Report on implementation of the Welsh Ministers’
Business Scheme

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Introduction

The Welsh Ministers’ Business Scheme is a statutory scheme under section 75 of GOWA 2006. It outlines how the Government will engage proactively with social partners in developing policy and legislation. ‘Social partners’ is defined in the Welsh Ministers Business Scheme as ‘business and employer representative organisations, trade unions and the members they represent’. The First Minister chairs a Council for Economic Renewal, which steers this work, and also funds a Welsh Social Partners Unit, which supports the social partner’s engagement activity.

This document reviews the Department for Health & Social Services (‘the Department’) implementation of the Business Scheme during the past year, and outlines plans for next year.

The Department’s engagement with the social partners included in the Business Scheme is, by the nature and provision of Welsh health and social care activity, differently focused than other Welsh Government departments. The Department has regular and productive engagement with its own health partners. These are professional and representative groups which are particularly focussed on the health and social care sector. They are generally well resourced and experienced in working with government on legislation, policy development, and consultation.

This annual report therefore describes engagement with the Business Scheme social partners, with the established network of health partners, and also with business and industry more generally.

Departmental engagement with specific social partner groups:

The **British Medical Association** (BMA) is the representative and trade union body for Doctors nationally and locally. It has a Welsh branch, established in 1852 with 15 members and a dedicated secretariat and public affairs team. The Welsh Government engages with the BMA through a wide range of formal and informal channels. Formally, the BMA has 6 representatives on the Welsh Medical Committee, with each rep feeding views and information in from their own bespoke networks. More informally, specific policy divisions across Health engage in their own spheres with members from each of the eight BMA Wales sub committees who represent the different types of doctors from Medical students and staff, to specialists and consultants.

The Royal College of General Practitioners is the professional membership body and guardian of standards for family doctors in the UK, working to promote excellence in primary healthcare. The RCGP has a Wales branch and engages with the Welsh Government Local Health Boards and Assembly Members. Formal representation is via the GP Committee for Wales (linked to the Welsh Medical Committee and the BMA) and the GP National Specialist Advisory Group (NSAG).

The **Royal College of Midwives** (RCM) is the professional association for midwives in the UK, as well as being a trade union. It has a Welsh branch with a Director for Wales. The Director meets the Minister and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) on a regular basis throughout the year. The RCM was a key stakeholder in the development of the Vision for Maternity Services (2012) and its subsequent implementation during 2013/14; development of national guidance on foetal monitoring issued in Sept 2013; and the approach to breast feeding in NHS Wales, led by Public Health Wales. The RCM is invited to provide evidence to support the 6 monthly maternity services performance board meetings which began in April 2013 and provide evidence to the NHS on its reconfiguration plans during 2013/14. The RCM has, with Welsh government, jointly funded a leadership development programme for existing and aspiring Heads of Midwifery Services in 2013/14. Follow up work is being planned for 2014/15.

The **Royal College of Nurses** (RCN) is the leading professional association for nurses in the UK as well as being a trade union. It has a Welsh branch with a Director for Wales. The Director meets the Minister and CNO on a regular basis throughout the year. RCN Wales is providing evidence to NHS on its reconfiguration plans during 2013/14. RCN Wales is supporting the implementation of the workforce and OD strategy for NHS Wales 'Working differently - working together'. RCN Wales held its second annual Nurse of the Year celebration in Nov 2013, at which the Chief Nursing Officer presented a Welsh Government sponsored award.

The **Welsh Partnership Forum** (WPF) is a tripartite group constituted as a representative body of Welsh Government officials, NHS employers and Trade Union representatives such as Unison, Unite and GMB. The Minister for Health and Social Services also attends this group annually. The WPF discusses a wide range of issues affecting staff and patients and ensures that WPF members work together to: influence national priorities and policy on health issues in Wales; ensure the principles of partnership are practised in NHS Wales and the Welsh Government; and promote and facilitate the behavioural changes that genuine partnership working entails.

The **NHS Strategic Pay Taskforce** (SPTF) was established in May 2013 to discuss how the cost pressures arising from the implementation of the 2013/14 pay award for NHS staff in Wales could be mitigated. The Taskforce has drawn its membership from Welsh Government officials, NHS employers and staff representatives from the RCN, RCM, UNISON, UNITE, CSP (Chartered Society of Physiotherapists), SoR (Society of Radiographers), and the GMB.

Care Forum Wales represents 450+ care homes, nursing homes and other independent health and social care providers across Wales. The chair and officers of Care Forum Wales meet the Deputy Minister for Social Services and senior officials on a regular basis throughout the year. Care Forum Wales has engaged with the Welsh Government on the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill and White Paper on the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care . Care Forum Wales represent the interests of independent providers of social care in the National Social Services Partnership Forum, chaired by the Deputy Minister for Social Services and help to give collective leadership to social services at the highest decision making level.

There is regular structured engagement with professional and specialist groups through bodies like the **Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee** and the **Welsh Therapies Advisory Committee**. This supports engagement with professional and business representative organisations such as the **British Dietetic Association, British and Irish Orthoptic Society Trade Union, Occupational Therapy Advisory Forum, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, and Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists**. The remit of these committees is to provide expert professional advice to Welsh Ministers and Welsh Government officials on relevant matters including: health service policy, delivery and workforce issues. The Committees meet with senior civil service officials and the Minister on a regular basis. Examples of recent policy reports that these bodies have contributed to in Wales are 'The contribution of Physiotherapy to community service provision' and the 'Health and social care occupational therapy progress report in respect of the development of integrated services'.

These bodies are also actively briefed on forthcoming legislation, for example being updated on the developments of the Human Transplantation and the Social Services Bill with a view to them contributing to the consultation. The Committees regularly respond to health and social services consultations and provided a contribution to the Residential Care for Older People Inquiry. Committee Members have a route to providing advice on a number of areas of policy development, including the delivery plans such as Delivering Local Health Care. For example, the WTAC Committee has provided advice to the Neonatal Steering Group leading to the development of a new care pathway, and has contributed to the Learning Disability Advisory Group; Older Persons Mental Health Delivery Assurance Group; Children & Young Person's Mental Health Delivery Assurance Group; National Specialist Advisory Group for Older People in Wales; Free to Lead - Falls Group; Mental Health Measure Expert Task and Finishing Group and the Higher Education and Training Advisory Group.

The **British Dental Association** (BDA) is the professional association and trade union for dentists in the United Kingdom. Most dentists are wholly or partially in private practice. The BDA has a Welsh branch with a National Director for Wales. The Director meets the Chief Dental Officer on a regular basis throughout the year. BDA Wales is consulted about proposed changes to policy e.g. the development of a National Oral Health Plan for Wales. BDA Wales is supporting the piloting of new approaches to the delivery of NHS dental services in Wales and is a member of the pilot Steering Group.

The **Royal Pharmaceutical Society** (RPS) is the professional body for pharmacists and pharmacy in England, Scotland and Wales. The Minister meets with RPS on an annual basis to discuss and receive updates on key issues.

The **General Pharmaceutical Council** (GPhC) is responsible for the independent regulation of over 70,000 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises in England, Scotland and Wales. The GPC's Director for Wales is in regular contact with the Pharmacy and Prescribing Team, with recent regular engagement over (i) the development of the new inspection framework for community pharmacies across England, Scotland and Wales (ii) the rebalancing of medicines and pharmacy legislation and the modernising pharmacy careers and education program.

The **Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry** (ABPI) represents innovative research-based pharmaceutical companies and contributes to the development of life-saving and life-enhancing medicines to patients. ABPI members supply 90 per cent of all medicines used by the NHS, and are researching and developing over two-thirds of the current medicines pipeline. The Minister and Chief Pharmaceutical Officer meet with ABPI on issues such as the Prescription Pricing Regulation Scheme and access to new medicines.

Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW) represents all Welsh based pharmacies who deliver NHS services in communities across Wales on behalf of Welsh Government and its agencies. CPW has been a key contributor to the development of the Choose Pharmacy pilot project, which is a Programme for Government commitment.

Examples of engagement with a broad range of stakeholders

It was agreed as part of the **development of a NHS Outcome Framework** for the NHS that we would engage with stakeholders including patients and clinicians to support a co-production methodology. The concept of co-production has been promoted by the Minister and senior leaders and is a core principle of health policy development and delivery. For example, there has been structured stakeholder, public and clinical engagement for the development of an NHS Outcome Framework known as "Talk Care", which has involved health partner organisations as well as patients and the general public. Engagement events were held across Wales with representation from invited stakeholders, followed by a consolidated event to feed back comments from each event. Attendees at the events have been invited to be part of an electronic reference group for ongoing work.

As part of its approach to **NHS reconfiguration**, the NHS has led a very thorough consultation approach with the general public, professional and employee organisations. The Department has established additional collaborative working groups to look at key themes, such as the links between access to hospital services and the provision of patient and public transport services in each reconfiguration area, ensuring engagement with both national and Welsh based commercial bus operators, as well as the community transport association.

From the outset, older people have been involved in the development of the **Strategy for Older People in Wales**. The views of more than 2,000 older people, gathered in questionnaires and at focus groups, informed the development of the consultation document published in October 2012. Over 100 individuals and organisations submitted detailed responses to the consultation. We have also worked with stakeholder groups, particularly the third sector.

Departmental collaboration with social partners

The Health, Work and Well-being Action Plan for Wales 2011-15 aims to provide a basis for collaborative working between key stakeholders to improve health and well-being at work; to reduce the impact of ill-health at work, and to encourage early intervention to rehabilitate those who have become ill or injured at work. **Wales Trade Union Council, Business in the Community and the Federation of Small Businesses** are key partners engaged in the delivery of the actions in the plan. The Welsh Government's actions are delivered through its Healthy Working Wales programme (www.healthyworkingwales.com) which is endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive and the TUC. The programme has several elements and other partners, including the Federation of Small Businesses, are engaged in the delivery of these. Over 1000 employers are supported by the programme each year and 500+ employers, representing 25% of people working in Wales, are engaged in the award programmes. As part of wider Health, Work and Well being work, particularly in relation to the delivery of UK Government led pilots and services in Wales, business representatives are consulted and engaged during the development phase. For instance, the Wales Social Partners, Federation of Small Business, Wales TUC and Business in the Community are being engaged and consulted on the implementation of the proposed Health and Work Service, for implementation in October 2014.

Departmental engagement with business and industry

Although the Welsh Ministers' Business Scheme is structured through engagement with social partners, the spirit of the document is engagement with business and industry. The Department has during the past year significantly increased its direct engagement with businesses, and has continued to work closely with officials from the Department for Economy Science & Transport, particularly the Life Sciences and Innovation teams.

The department routinely seeks views from business organisations and social partners when consulting on new legislation. For example, the bill team for the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Regulations 2013 sought views from Chamber Wales, CBI Wales, Federation of Small Businesses, Forum of Private Business, NFU Cymru and the Law Society, and met with the Wales Tourism Alliance to discuss the introduction of a statutory food hygiene rating scheme in Wales. Consultation on the Human Transplantation (Wales) Act white paper and draft bill sought consultations from PCS, Unison, GMC and Wales TUC.

Industry is strongly represented on the **NISCHR AHSC Industry Group** which framed the concept of the **Health Research Wales gateway service**, and continues to monitor its implementation. The service itself supports close working with industry on research activity, which extends beyond structured clinical trials to general collaboration and industry engagement in pursuit of innovation activities.

Other examples of structured engagement with business include the call for evidence and presentations to the **Health & Wellbeing Best Practice and Innovation Board**, and particularly its NHS Social Care & Business workstream, which has authored policy recommendations to Welsh Ministers on ways to improve industry engagement across the health and social care system.

Senior officials are also engaged in cross-sector projects like the **Life Sciences Wales Knowledge Exchange Project**, which is tasked with mapping the life sciences and healthcare sector in Wales and shaping future priorities for Welsh government support and investment, across academic, business and clinical subsectors.

There is also considerable ad hoc engagement with a wide range of business and industry partners which informs policy development and delivery. For example, this includes site visits (e.g. GE Healthcare, Quintiles, Microsoft, Biomet, WePredict, Penn Pharma, Magstim, Invacare) and meetings (e.g. Roche, GSK, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Cisco, Tunstall, Conduit, Northgate IS, ABPI, MediWales, One Nucleus, Time for Medicine, Qinetiq, Life Technologies, O2 Health). Additionally, senior officials work directly with health boards, universities and investors to engage with early stage businesses and to support knowledge transfer activity. This includes investors (Finance Wales, Fusion IP, Welsh Life Sciences Fund), early stage innovation (VentureFest, Oxford Innovation, Fulcrum), and NHS commercialisation (WIMAT Surgical raining Centre, St Marys Pharmacy Unit, Welsh Wound Innovation Centre, Institute of Life Sciences, PDR Product Design). Senior officials also meet regularly with industry representative organisations like Community Pharmacy Wales, the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, and the Association of British Healthcare Industries.

Awareness raising within the Department

The department's **Executive Directors Team** has received presentations on the Business Scheme and directorates have contributed to this first annual report. There is also an increasing awareness of general industry engagement and the value of partnering across sectors, including particularly in the context of developing a new policy approach which jointly addresses health and wealth outcomes. During the year a **Health Economy Working Group** was established to support increased policy awareness and new thinking in this area. Both the Minister and the Director General recently made public commitments to support continued engagement with industry at the **MediWales Innovation Awards** held in December 2013, and NISCHR is the main sponsor of these awards.

A cross-department **Life Sciences and Health Officials Group** meets monthly to share information and to align policy across government. This group is chaired by a senior health official but includes strong representation from other departments, including particularly economy, science and innovation.

Future Departmental activity

Health and social care is a relatively mature and well-resourced sector with strong professional associations and representative organisations which have enough capacity and resource to engage with legislation, policy development and consultation.

The Minister and officials committed to adopting a co-production approach to health policy development and delivery, and this is in some cases supported by standing committees which bring partners and officials together, and which have scheduled access to the Minister. The department also ensures widespread stakeholder engagement as part of policy development.

As part of feeding into the review of the Department's advisory structures, a new group that includes industry engagement alongside clinicians and academics has been suggested to fill gap in the current structure. Given current Cabinet priorities to create jobs and stimulate economic growth, this group could help enable the maximisation of economic value from healthcare activity in Wales.

All NHS procurement for goods and services takes place through NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) and 16% (£118m) of the £721m non-pay spend is procured within Wales. As such, the department is working with EST to analyse and develop the NHS supply chain in order to investigate how economic benefits to Wales could be increased through NHS supply chain development support targeted through the Business Wales provision.

The department will its regular and well-structured engagement with health partners, which is embedded in legislation, policy development and consultation, and which provides a platform for direct contact with senior officials and the Minister. It will also continue to engage directly with industry, and expects to deliver new initiatives which will support industry access and engagement throughout the health and care sectors.