

Terms of Reference

Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Delivery Group for Wales

Background:

In response to the threat of AMR, in 2013 the UK Government published a five year strategy to address AMR taking a fully integrated, cross sectoral approach. In Wales, a five year AMR Delivery Plan for the NHS was developed to deliver the ambitions of the strategy.

The new UK 20-year vision and Five-Year National Action Plan (2019-2024) builds on the achievements of the 2013-2018 strategy and sets out challenging ambitions and actions for the next five years, importantly, adopting a One-Health approach across humans, animals and the environment.

Wales, alongside the other UK countries, has been working in partnership on the development of the UK Five Year National Action Plan.

Some of the key animal and environmental ambitions, relevant to Wales are:

- For the first time, monitor antibiotics and their residues in the environment.
- Significantly reduce the need to use antibiotics in farmed animals by raising health status of herds and flocks, and applying the principle of “prevention is better than cure” to animal production systems.
- Measure antibiotic usage at farm level for each major farmed animal species.
- Review and improve the surveillance of AMR in bacteria of animal origin.
- Improve standards of antibiotic stewardship in veterinarians, through training, benchmarking and provision of guidance for both prescribing and supply.
- Reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics in companion animals.

Purpose:

The Animal and Environment AMR Delivery Group for Wales is set up to develop and recommend an Animal and Environment Implementation Plan for Wales, to sit beneath and deliver the agreed actions of the UK Five Year National Action Plan. The Welsh Government has a role to play in addressing AMR, working in partnership with colleagues across the Welsh Government and wider by working with the other GB/UK administrations, stakeholders, veterinarians, delivery agencies and experts within the field.

Our approach is to play to our strengths here in Wales, and to add as much value as possible to the national effort, without duplicating efforts.

Scope:

The Animal and Environment AMR Delivery Group has been established to refine and recommend an Animal and Environment AMR Implementation Plan for Wales. And to ensure it is delivered and its outcomes are achieved.

The scope of this Delivery Group covers the provision of advice in relation to all actions that the Welsh Government is responsible for in terms of animals and the environment. The group will engage, consult and take views from a wide range of sources in order to provide independent, expert advice.

For example, this includes, but is not limited to:

- Support schemes and development funds.
- Partnership working, including vets, industry representatives, academia etc.
- Communications with industry/general public.

The Implementation Plan will consider AMR in farmed and companion animals; and AMR in the environment taking into account Wales' unique situation, such as the relationship with our Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and our Veterinary Delivery Partners.

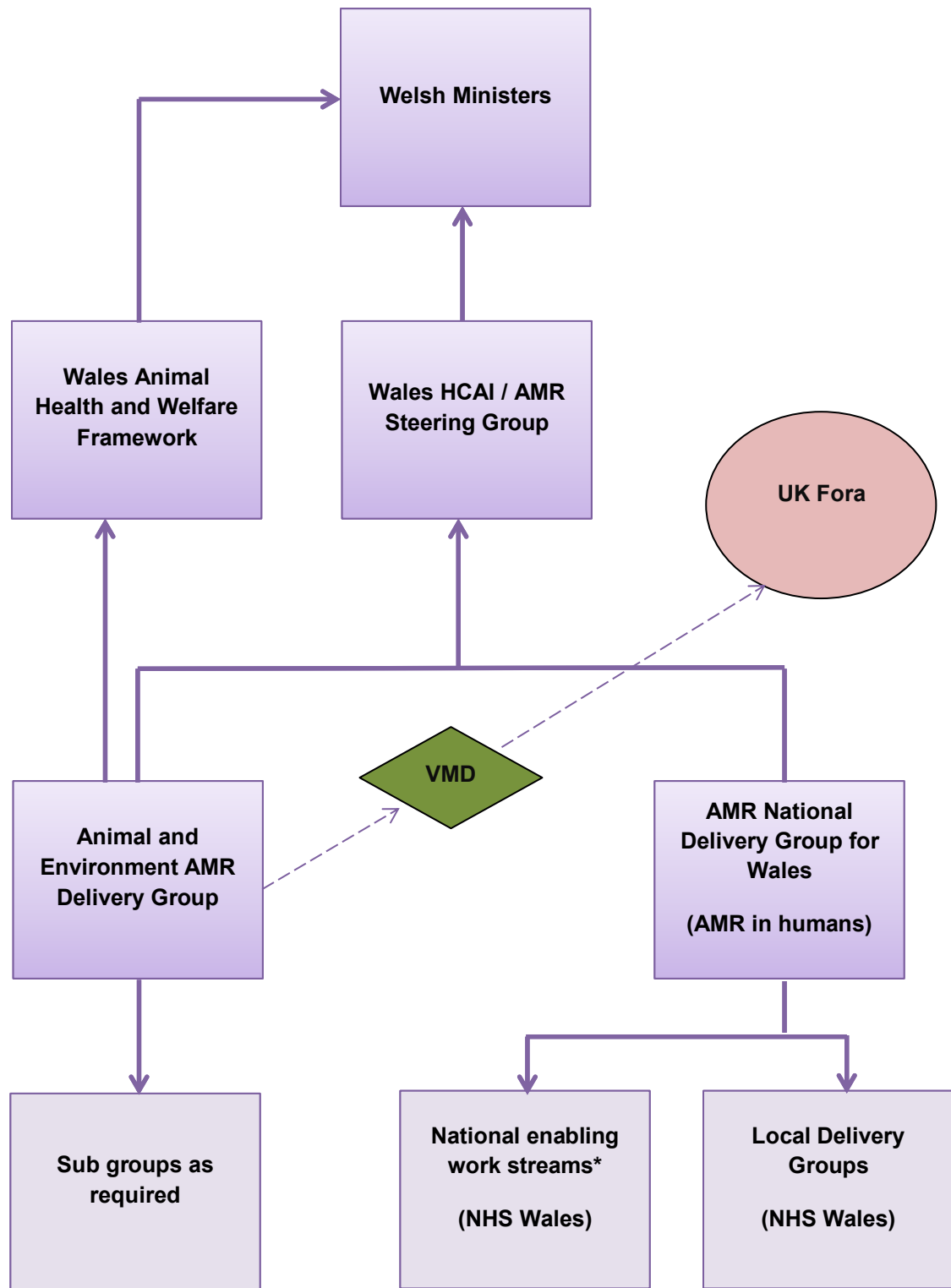
The main focus of the Delivery Group will be on AMR control in farmed and companion animals, and on AMR spread in the environment. The Group will be asked to advise on whether the Wales AMR Implementation Plan should include components addressing AMR in aquaculture and in wild animals.

Objectives:

The overarching objectives of the Animal and Environment AMR Delivery Group are:

- To advise on, support and deliver the Animal and Environment AMR Implementation Plan for Wales.
- To report to the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and; also report to the Wales Healthcare-associated Infection / AMR Steering Group. Providing advice to Ministers through a joined-up approach, as and when required.
- To contain the spread of AMR and drive significant reductions in antibiotic usage rates. Consequently to advise on the necessary surveillance and monitoring requirements for measurement, and to determine ambitious and achievable reductions for Wales, in a UK context.
- To ensure that animal (veterinary) and environmental aspects of AMR control in Wales (and the rest of the UK where appropriate) are managed in a co-ordinated and synergistic way with the human aspects of AMR control, adopting a true 'One Health' approach.
- For all three sectors (human, animal and environmental) to learn as much as possible from each other to identify knowledge gaps and advise how those can be addressed.
- For AMR policy and delivery in Wales to be an international exemplar.
- To contribute to Wales' Wellbeing of Future Generations Act goals, such as a healthier, globally responsible, prosperous and resilient Wales.
- To maximise opportunities for the science base in Wales to develop and to contribute to AMR control.

Wales AMR Governance:



- * Health Care Acquired Infections
- * Communications and Engagement
- * QA, Standards and Policy
- * Workforce
- * Research and Development

Board Membership and Structure:

The Delivery Group will be a mixture of government and private sector stakeholder representatives.

Due to the specialist remit individuals will be invited to become a board member. Individuals will be expected to attend in their own right, and not as a representative of any organisation or group that they may be involved with.

Board members will not be remunerated for attendance at meetings but, will be able to claim appropriate travel and subsistence costs in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines.

Chair and Deputy Chair

- To be determined
- To be determined

Delivery Group Membership

- Welsh Government – Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
- Welsh Government – Water and Flood Division
- Farming Representatives / Agri-Academy
- Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group
- Veterinary Delivery Partners
- Veterinary Medicines Directorate
- British Veterinary Association
- Public Health Wales

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Welsh Government's Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer will provide secretariat support.

The secretariat team will co-ordinate the communications strategy, including website and promotional material for events etc. The secretariat team will also manage any correspondence and queries.

Appropriate agenda items will be raised prior to the meeting. The Chair will agree the final agenda, which will be shared in advance of meetings by the secretariat. An agenda template can be found at Annex 1.

Actions identified by the group will be taken forward and sub-groups may be established to support this work. The Group will be asked to consider, for example if the following components should be addressed by sub-groups:

- Environmental monitoring
- Surveillance requirements to measure impact
- Companion animal actions
- Antibiotic prescribing and supply guidelines and measures

The Delivery Group does not have the autonomy to make decisions on how funding will be allocated, sign off Service Level Agreements with delivery bodies, approve contingency plans or approve submissions.

Planning & Reporting Cycle:

The Delivery Group will hold face to face meetings four times a year, plus ad hoc meetings as and when required.

The Implementation Plan will outline priorities, how these contribute to the strategic outcomes, lead responsibilities and key actions. The plan will be kept under review.

If necessary, new priorities can be included to reflect situations, which may occur. It is expected that some priorities will remain in place over a number of years whilst others may have a much shorter lifespan but nevertheless can have considerable impact.

Ordinarily the Group will provide regular, (potentially quarterly) updates of activities and outcomes to the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and the Wales HCAI / AMR Steering Group and to UK for as far as appropriate, with detail on activities, goals attained, future plans and challenges.

The board may also report/make requests to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs as and when necessary or appropriate. Consideration for joining efforts with the AMR National Delivery Group in communications to both portfolio ministers will always be given.

Lifespan:

The Delivery Group will be established on the 13 May 2019 for a five year period, until 2024. The Board will agree and publish a 5 year Implementation Plan covering this period.

Evaluation:

The priorities and the timeline for delivery of each objective will be considered by the Delivery Group. Every objective must be measurable so that success can be monitored.

In line with the outcomes based approach, an Evidence Card will be produced and maintained for all priorities. An example has been included at Annex 2.

These terms of reference and operating arrangements shall be reviewed annually by the Delivery Group.

ANNEX 1 – Suggested Agenda Template:

Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance Delivery Group

Agenda:

	Item	Time	Presenter
1.	Welcome and Introductions	10:30 – 11:00	Chair
2.	Sign-off minutes & update actions from last meeting	11:00 – 11:30	(link to minutes and actions to be included here)
3.	OCVO Update	11:30 – 11:45	
4.	Environment Update	11:45 – 12:00	
	Lunch	12:00 – 12:30	
5.	Public Health Wales update	12:30 – 12:45	
6.	Member updates	12:45 – 14:00	
7.	Additional agenda items put forward	14:00 – 15:00	
8.	AOB	15:00 – 15:30	

Annexe 2 – Evidence Card

	What	For example
Inputs	Public sector resources required to achieve the policy objectives.	Public Goods scheme
Activities	What is delivered on behalf of the public sector to the recipient	Funds linked to farm-specific, veterinary Animal Health Plans, with a minimum standard (set by the board?) Infection Prevention and Control measures
Outputs	What the recipient does with the resources, advice/ training received, or intervention relevant to them	Implements fully the AHP, also subject to independent/random and risk auditing
Intermediate Outcomes	The intermediate outcomes of the policy produced by the recipient.	Increased uptake of vaccines Better/optimised husbandry practices and biosecurity Greater input of private vet and cooperation with farmer Improved farm efficiency and productivity Reduced use of antimicrobials
Impacts	Wider economic and social outcomes	Improved animal health and welfare at farm level Reduced use of antimicrobials and reduced creation of livestock associated AMR