

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 19 January 2021

STATUS: ACTION / INFORMATION

CATEGORY: GOVERNANCE

Title: Board Champion Roles

Date of Expiry / Review: March 2023

For Action by:

Chairs of NHS Trusts and Local Health Boards (LHBs)

Chief Executives of NHS Trusts and Local Health Boards

Directors of Corporate Governance/Board Secretaries of NHS Trusts and LHBs

Action required by:

In accordance with Board and Committee timetable but no later than 31 March 2021. See paragraph 4.

For Information:

Chair of Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Interim Chair of Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW)

Chairs of the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC), the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) and the Shared Services Committee (NWSSP Committee)

Directors of Corporate Governance/Board Secretaries of HEIW and DHCW

Committee Secretaries of WHSSC, EASC AND NWSSP Committee

Directors of Finance

Directors of Workforce & OD
Medical Directors
Directors of Nursing

Directors of Therapies and Health Sciences
Directors of Planning
Directors of Public Health

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Enclosure(s): One

1. Introduction

Board champion posts have been introduced to Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts since 2003 and are a mix of statutory and non-statutory roles, to be held at non-executive (independent member), executive director level or both.

2. Decision

During 2020 Welsh Government officials undertook a detailed assessment of all the Champion roles to assess the need for them to continue. This assessment identified roles that need to be maintained and seven roles to be discontinued.

Roles to be discontinued:

- **Health Sustainability:** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the 'Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Services' makes the role no longer necessary as the Act embeds sustainability into Boards' decisions, with the plan setting the direction for the NHS in Wales.
- **Patient Champion for Cleaning (hospital environment):** This is now embedded best practice.
- **Design role:** Concluded that the Champion role had been met and does not need to continue.
- **Public and Patient Involvement:** Superseded by the Putting Things Right statutory roles.
- **Estates:** Concluded that the Champion role does not need to continue.
- **Security Management:** Concluded that the Champion role does not need to continue.
- **Delayed Transfers of Care:** The remit now falls within Director responsible for performance.

3. Roles to continue:

These are set out in the Annex to this WHC.

4. Next Steps

Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts should undertake the following action:

- Identify the individuals currently fulfilling the Champion roles stated in this WHC as to be discontinued and advise them of this decision.
- Ensure the identification of individuals to perform the roles where the requirement remains.

Welsh Government will undertake the following action:

- Welsh Government policy leads will over the coming months introduce a role description for the Champion roles which are continuing (for those posts where currently there is none) to provide greater clarity regarding the expectations of the role and for evaluating the effectiveness. This will also assist in assessing the value in maintaining the role in the future.

ANNEX: Continuing Roles

Role	Executive (E) / Non-Executive (NE)	Reason for maintaining	Statutory
Fire Safety	E	The role is considered essential (WHC/054/2002).	
Emergency Planning	E	NHS organisations have a duty under the Civil Contingency Act 2004.	Y
Caldicott	E	Ongoing activity. (WHC (99) 92).	
Violence and Aggression	E	Provides leadership to the roll out of the 'Obligatory Responses to Violence in Healthcare' 2018.	
Infection prevention and control	NE	Continued need for the role to ensure infection prevention and control is embedded in the organisation and reflected by policy and procedures.	
Armed Forces and Veterans	NE	Advocate for veterans and service personnel to ensure their needs are reflected in local service plans.	
Mental Health	Vice Chair	Continuing need and a specific responsibility of Vice Chairs. Routine meetings between Vice Chairs and Minister.	
Equality	NE	Continuing need for the role	
Children and Young People	E & NE	Specified in Chapter 31 of The Children's Act 2004	Y

Role	Executive (E) / Non-Executive (NE)	Reason for maintaining	Statutory
Putting Things Right	E & NE	Specified by the NHS (Concerns, Complaints and Redress Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2011	Y
Raising Concerns (Staff)	E or NE	Bullying and harassment identified as a particular issue across all NHS organisations. Leadership necessary to enable a safe route for staff to raise concerns. (Procedure for NHS Staff to Raise Concerns (Whistleblowing) 2017)	
Welsh Language	E	Leadership necessary to ensure Welsh language is promoted and mainstreamed into the work of the Health Board and Trusts. (WHC (2008) 002 and More Than Just Words 2016)	
Older Persons	NE	Under further consideration	

END