

COVERING STATEMENT

Independent Review of the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP)

Accountability and Governance Arrangements

In April 2025, the former Director General of Health, Social Care and Early Years (HSCEY) and NHS Wales Chief Executive commissioned an independent review into the governance and accountability arrangements of NWSSP.

The current arrangements for NWSSP have been in place for 14 years. During this period, the NHS in Wales has undergone significant changes, including the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, and NWSSP has grown substantially since its establishment in 2011.

Simon Dean was appointed as the independent reviewer. Simon began working in NHS Wales in 2004 and has held several senior positions, including Chief Executive of Velindre University NHS Trust. He also served as Deputy NHS Wales Chief Executive, for a number of years until his retirement in 2021.

The review engaged Velindre, NWSSP, and other NHS stakeholders. It concluded that the framework for governance and accountability for the SSPC/NWSSP is fundamentally sound, although it would benefit from some adjustments and strengthening.

The report and its recommendations have been shared with the Chairs of Velindre and the Shared Services Partnership Committee. The Chairs' joint feedback has been positive, and has been considered in the Welsh Government Initial Response. Today, I am publishing the report and the initial response.

The next phase will focus on progressing and refining this work and developing a more detailed understanding of the areas identified for strengthening. This will be done through a collaborative programme of work between both organisations and Welsh Government to implement the recommendations aimed at strengthening governance and accountability.

I would like to thank Simon Dean for his invaluable contribution and commitment in leading the independent review, which has provided important insights to inform the next phase of this work.