



Dear Colleague,

17/02/2022

Much like everyone's week at Cardiff and Vale I have been busy! I am working through my induction with many visits and meetings as part of my first 30 days as a member of Team CAV.

Last week I met with clinical board directors and their teams at University Hospital of Wales and the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital. Meeting with the OPAT Team at UHW has enabled me to see in practice how our site-based leadership operates. I've also been pleased to meet with our public health consultants as well as the Chief Fire Officer for South Wales Fire and Rescue, among many others.

This week my focus is on the Vale of Glamorgan where I have met colleagues at University Hospital Llandough, Hafan y Coed and Barry. Whilst in Barry I also visited a community pharmacy and the CEO and Councillor of Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Without exception I am meeting highly professional, committed and motivated colleagues and partners who, despite the duration of the pandemic response and other challenges, remain resilient and are still looking to adapt and innovate to improve the experience of patients and citizens as well as for their teams and colleagues. It really has been an inspiring and humbling experience.

I also joined our Medical Director, Professor Meriel Jenney, for a discussion with medical colleagues, examining the drivers behind the current extreme pressures on all parts of the CAV system but especially the urgent and emergency care pathway and units and the concerning implications and impacts for patients but also team members. We recognised that patient flow into the hospitals, within the hospital footprint and out of the hospital, is proving difficult with delays and inefficiencies and that whilst some of this problem is the result of capacity challenges out in the community and in social care, there are some things we can do together to improve the situation. We talked about ensuring that we all prioritise activities that will expedite the patient pathway and care and reduce overcrowding in the emergency unit. No doubt the discussion will continue and do keep your ideas and suggestions for improvement coming via your Clinical Board Directors.

As I look ahead, I still have many more people to meet and I will continue to be curious and ask lots of questions, so please don't worry, I just want to learn as much as I can and benefit from all your knowledge and experience.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks and gratitude to Professor Stuart Walker who will be sadly leaving the organisation this week. Stuart has made a huge contribution to Cardiff and

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Vale UHB in his roles as Medical Director, Deputy CEO and most recently, Interim CEO, and I wish him the very, very best as he joins University Hospitals Bristol as Medical Director soon. Thank you Stuart, for everything you have done and the support you have given me during my transition to CAVUHB.

I am delighted to announce that Professor Meriel Jenney has been appointed to Medical Director until 2023, providing continuity and leadership for us all. Meriel is a much-valued member of the leadership team and is extremely well-known and respected across the organisation and within her medical field. I'm really looking forward to working alongside Meriel and learning from her and capturing as much of her experience and insight as possible.

In the same week Dr Mark Wardle has taken up the post of Chief Clinical Informatics Officer at the UHB so I'm delighted to share this positive news with you. Read on for more information about both posts.

I'm also very excited to announce that we are moving forward with our commitments to sustainable travel as we start work later this month on a new cycle facility at UHW. Many of you will cycle to work, which helps to keep the sites clear of traffic and is also a healthy way of travelling. This new facility will allow colleagues to securely store their bike as well as provide changing rooms and showers. This is a first for the health board and I am looking forward to seeing the final build which is anticipated to be completed at the end of March.

Last weekend I joined my fellow Welsh colleagues in celebrating Wales' win over Scotland in the Six Nations (although I was

jointly celebrating England's win too!) and I'm keeping everything crossed for both teams to continue their winning streak in the coming weeks. You may have seen our Six Nations social media campaign which is encouraging us all to put Covid in the sin bin and walk in for your vaccinations now at all of our Mass Vaccination Centres. We are seeing smaller numbers coming through our centres now but the vaccine is still the best protection we have against serious illness, so please come forward if you are yet to be vaccinated.

I was saddened this week by the news of a well-known and loved lady and former member of staff, Marian Willis, who passed away. Marian worked for the NHS for an incredible 66 years and I know that she will be greatly missed by her colleagues here. I didn't meet her but Marian was clearly an important member of the team and so it is with regret that I will never have that opportunity. More on Marian later in this newsletter.

As I get settled into my new role I will be communicating as much as possible with you. Please follow me on [Twitter](#) to keep in touch and if you are a member of staff, please download the Staff Connect app to keep up to date with latest news. If you would like me to visit your area of work please drop me an email or email [news@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:news@wales.nhs.uk).



*Scott McLean, Managing Director, University Hospital of Wales*

*Alun Tomkinson, Assistant Medical Director, University Hospital of Wales*

*Suzanne Rankin, Chief Executive Officer, University Hospital of Wales*

*Andy Jones, Interim Director of Nursing, Children & Women's Clinical Board*

*Karenza Moulton, Lead Nurse for the Children's Hospital for Wales*

*Dr Rim Al-Samsam, Clinical Director, Children's Hospital for Wales Services*

*Becci Ingram, General Manager, Children's Hospital for Wales*

*Suzanne Rankin, Chief Executive Officer*

*Dr Clare Rowntree, Consultant Haematologist and Clinical Board Director for Children and Women's Clinical Board*



*Professor Stuart Walker*

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## Professor Meriel Jenney appointed to Medical Director

I am delighted to announce that Professor Meriel Jenney has been appointed to the role of Medical Director until at least 2023.

Meriel has a long and distinguished career as a paediatric oncologist and is incredibly well respected by her colleagues and patients.

Meriel was appointed Interim Medical Director five months ago and has provided effective and compassionate leadership and support to her executive colleagues, including Stuart Walker whilst he was undertaking the Interim CEO role, the Assistant Medical Directors and the wider Cardiff and Vale team.



I am really pleased that Meriel will be at my side over the coming 18 months, providing me with expert medical leadership advice and guidance as well as deep insight and experience of the UHB. I believe we will all benefit from the continuity and corporate memory that Meriel will bring to

me and to TEAM CAV and I'm very much looking forward to working alongside her.

Meriel has been a Consultant in Paediatric Oncology at the Children's Hospital for Wales since 1996. She was appointed to Deputy Medical Director in early 2021.

Meriel's undergraduate training was in Sheffield and postgraduate in Sheffield, Melbourne and Manchester. She was also awarded a Harkness Fellowship to study in the US based at the University of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Following her move to Cardiff in 1996, Meriel led the children's cancer services in Wales for over two decades. She has worked in senior operational roles as Clinical Board Director for both the Children and Women's and Clinical Diagnostics and Therapeutics clinical boards and in the more strategic role of Associate Medical Director for Cancer Services. Meriel has a longstanding, ongoing research interest in the treatment of children's cancers and was awarded an honorary Chair by Cardiff University in 2019.

Meriel also works with Cardiff & Vale Health Charity in supporting the development of paediatric oncology services at The Children's Cancer Centre in Sierra Leone.

## Dr Mark Wardle appointed to Chief Clinical Informatics Officer

I am also delighted to announce that Dr Mark Wardle has been appointed to the role of Chief Clinical Informatics Officer (CCIO).

Mark has been a Consultant Neurologist since 2011 and was appointed Clinical Informatician in 2016. He has also chaired the NHS Wales Technical Standards Group since 2018. He has

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20 years' experience in digital, technology and informatics and was a founding fellow of the Faculty of Clinical Informatics.

In his role as CCIO Mark will work to support the safe and efficient design, implementation and use of informatics to deliver improvements to patient care in hospitals and across our community.

Speaking about his appointment, Mark said: "Digital technology is a key part of our ongoing response to and recovery from COVID-19, as well as being fundamental in how we transform our health services for the modern age.

"As we take our ambitions forward, digital developments are critical in building responsive and continuously-learning health and care services. There has been no better time to be part of that development and I'm absolutely delighted to start my new role."

Mark replaces Allan Wardhaugh who has been appointed as Interim National Clinical Director for the National Clinical Framework, in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer at Welsh Government.



### Tribute to Marian Willis

Having worked for the NHS for 66 years, Marian was very well-known across the organisation for her kindness and willingness to help others.

She began working for the NHS aged 15 at St David's Hospital along with her four sisters and father. She continued to work for us into her eighties and was best known for her sewing skills, having worked in the linen services department for the past 20 years.

Marian enjoyed maintaining a high standard through her work. Many of her colleagues would have their uniforms professionally altered by Marian and I hear that she enjoyed telling many stories over the many years she worked at the health board.

Marian was awarded our Chair's Commendation at the Staff Recognition Awards 2021, a mark of her remarkable work and dedication to her career. From speaking to those who knew her, I know that Marian will be greatly missed.



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## Recovery and Redesign: Four new Interface GPs appointed

As part of the Health Board's Recovery and Redesign programme, four new Clinical Interface GPs have been appointed to support Acute Medicine & Respiratory, Rheumatology & Dermatology, Gastroenterology and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Following the success of other GPs working in interface roles in other Clinical Board areas, these new posts will focus on supporting the recovery and redesign of patient pathways. They will focus their efforts on the whole patient journey from presentation, management and referral to developing long-term treatment plans.

As well as improving services for patients, these new posts will increase collaboration between primary and secondary care and are supported by interface groups, clinical working groups and Health Pathways.

Their work facilitates strong collaboration with key stakeholders across primary and secondary care, with a focus on developing innovative approaches to providing seamless care across the whole healthcare system by identifying priority areas for development and transformation.

The PCIC Clinical Board is continuing to work with other Clinical Boards to expand on the GP Interface team and maximize opportunities of this model.

## Sustainability Update: New Cycle Hub at University Hospital of Wales

As part of our commitment to encouraging sustainable and active travel, we are pleased to announce approval on plans for a new, secure cycle facility at University Hospital of Wales (UHW).

Taking on board feedback from staff on how to improve cycling and active travel facilities across our health board, the cycle hub will contain two-tier storage for 90 bikes as well as changing facilities including two unisex showers, a toilet and a drying room. The changing areas will have fixed unit hairdryers and full height mirrors.

The building will be timber-clad, designed to a high-specification using latest technology. The drying rooms will contain dehumidifiers rather than heat to dry items within six hours, and the building is designed to maximise natural light to reduce energy consumption. The outdoor decking area will be constructed using recycled plastic.

The secure facility will be fully enclosed and will be monitored by CCTV, with staff gaining access via their TDSI security card.

The cycle hub will be located opposite Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales and will replace the existing temporary shower units. Work will start on site on 21 February 2022 and the project is anticipated to be completed at the end of March 2022.

During the construction of this new facility, staff can use existing shower facilities at UHW's Sports and Social Club (membership / fee applies), in Ty Dewi Sant and in Lakeside Wing.

Geoff Walsh, Director of Capital, Estates and

Facilities, said: "I am excited to announce start of work on the cycle hub which will be a great facility for staff who cycle to and from work at UHW, and will hopefully encourage more staff to consider cycling to work. This new facility will play an important part in creating a reliable, safe place for cycle storage. We have consulted with colleagues who already cycle to work to ask them to feed into the plans to ensure the facility best meets the needs of cyclists and active travellers.

"This facility backs our commitments to promoting healthy and sustainable travel as well as Cardiff Council's sustainable travel plan for the city."

Last year, Cardiff Council developed proposals for five Cycleways to support and promote cycling for all ages and abilities. The proposed routes will connect communities to major destinations across the city, including Cardiff city centre and Cardiff Bay. This also includes a Cycleway from Cardiff city centre to UHW.

The cycle hub at UHW is hoped to be the first of three which will include an additional facility at UHW and another at University Hospital Llandough.

Mike Mullan, Workforce Information Manager at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, is a cyclist and was involved in the plans for the new facility. He said, "I was very impressed with the plans and suggested a couple of additions including lockers, and also mirrors and hairdryers for staff who may find these useful. I think the facility will encourage more staff to cycle commute to work at the UHW site."



*Image of a similar build*

### **Cycle to work scheme extended to all year round**

From 1 March 2022, the staff Cycle to Work scheme which enables staff to save up to 30% on the purchase of a bike will be open all year round to staff.

Operating as a salary sacrifice scheme, Cycle to Work allows you to lease a bike – including e-bikes – over one year, paying 12 equal payments each month to cover the cost.

At the end of the year you can either pay a disposal fee, from which point the bike becomes yours or enter a zero-cost extended hire agreement. The scheme also applies to bike accessories and clothing up to the value of £3,000.

The window for the scheme was previously only available twice a year, however, the scheme will now be open throughout the year.

The new facility and extension of the Cycle to Work scheme is part of Cardiff and Vale UHB's commitment to 'Caring for People, Keeping People Well', ensuring that Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and its many citizens

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thrive not just today, but for the many years to come.

The scheme also complements the organisation's commitment to the Healthy Travel Charter in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. As a signatory alongside partner public sector organisations, we are committed to supporting and encouraging staff and visitors to travel in a sustainable way to and from our sites.

By working together with a view to the long-term, public sector organisations in the city aim to increase the proportion of journeys made to and from workplaces which are sustainable, reducing the impact on the environment and improving the health of people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, now and in future generations.