

# Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

24/02/2021

Another week has passed and we continue to make great strides with our COVID-19 mass vaccination programme. To date, we have vaccinated 126,289 people in the priority cohorts as set by JCVI which is 32% of our total population. We are now inviting priority group 5, (those aged 65-69 to their GP Practice), and priority group 6, (those aged 16-64 with underlying health conditions) and unpaid carers to a Mass Vaccination Centre.

Our key achievements from the last week include the fact that we were able to bring forward some second doses for those who were offered the Pfizer vaccine, allowing those people to have the highest level of protection from this vaccine slightly earlier than planned. We also held a special clinical for those with allergies that prevent them from receiving the Pfizer vaccine to offer them an alternative vaccine. We have also continued to contact and vaccinate housebound patients via our Mobile Vaccination Team.

This week, our supply is slightly reduced due to the national supply chain so our delivery will be in line with this. However, our GP practices will continue to offer appointments to those aged 65-69 with over 4,000 vaccinations expected to be delivered in primary care alone this week!

Our Mass Vaccination Centres in Pentwyn and Barry will deliver the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine to those aged 16-64 with underlying health conditions and to unpaid carers. From next week, we are expecting increased delivery of Oxford AstraZeneca and will continue with second doses of Pfizer for those that have received it.

I feel as though I cannot say this enough at the moment but I just want to reiterate my utmost thanks to everyone involved in the mass vaccination programme for their stellar work, and to you for your continued patience as you await your first and/or second doses. It is beginning to make a huge difference and, as long as we continue to follow the COVID regulations offers us the safest way out of this situation: truly a light at the end of what has been a very long tunnel.

**Len Richards**  
**Chief Executive**

## Vaccine Equity

We continue to work with a range of partners to ensure our vaccine programme, and understanding of what it involves, is accessible to all members of our population across Cardiff and the Vale.

A collaborative group focussing on 'seldom heard voices' meets regularly to plan how vaccines and vaccine education can be made more accessible to underrepresented groups.

Ensuring that people are able to make an informed choice around vaccination is a priority for us as a health board and we continue to progress operational and communication plans to support all members of our community in making this choice and accessing a vaccine in their locality.

You can hear from some of our community members sharing their views on the covid-19 vaccine below:

Mr Salam Abdul, Chairman of Cardiff Bangladeshi Society.

Hafiz Siddique, Imam of Grangetown Mosque.

## Changes to our Executive Team and Board

This week is the final week at the Health Board for Martin Driscoll, our Executive Director of Workforce and Organisational Development. As we announced last year, Martin is beginning a new role as Executive Director of People and Workforce at Welsh Water. I am sad to see him go although I am sure you will join me in wishing him the very best. He has brought a new perspective and approach to NHS workforce and has made significant gains since he has been here. Martin will be replaced in the interim period by Rachel Gidman, our current Assistant Director of Organisational Development, who I would like to wish a warm welcome to the executive team.

I would also like to welcome our new Director of Finance, Catherine Phillips, who joins us next week from North Bristol NHS Trust.

Catherine has provided excellent financial leadership to the Trust and I am excited for her to begin working with us in Cardiff and the Vale. I must also extend my sincere thanks to Chris Lewis who has done a fantastic job as our Director of Finance in the interim period since Bob Chadwick's retirement.

I would like to warmly welcome Mike Jones to our board and congratulate him on his appointment to the position of Independent Member for Trade Union, and David Edwards for his appointment as Independent Member for ICT. I look forward to working with them more closely to ensure that our Health Board is a great place to train and work for all members of staff with excellent digital technology at our disposal.

## Congratulations to Prof. Meriel Jenney, our new Deputy Medical Director

I would like to offer my congratulations to Professor Meriel Jenney, who has recently been announced as our new Deputy Medical Director. Prof. Jenney is an internationally renowned paediatric oncologist with extensive operational and professional leadership experience. She is currently in the role of Clinical Board Director for Clinical Diagnostics and Therapeutics, having previously led the Children and Women's Clinical Board. She is also the Associate Medical Director for Cancer. Professor Jenney continues to have an active research portfolio as Chief Investigator of an international clinical trial.

Professor Jenney said "I am really delighted to have been offered this role and look forward to working with all colleagues across the UHB in supporting the continued delivery of our very high quality and caring services."



## New LGBTQ+ Staff Network

As we approach the end of LGBTQ+ History Month, I'm pleased to be able to share that a new LGBTQ+ staff network is being formed for our employees.

The network will work to make LGBTQ+ issues more visible within the work environment, serving as an inclusive resource for LGBTQ+ employees across the Health Board. It will provide a safe and supportive environment for all who identify as part of LGBTQ+ communities, whether or not they are 'out' in the wider world, regardless of identity or background. It will enable LGBTQ+ staff to come together to share information and support, provide all staff with confidential support and advice, help to inform the Health Board's approach to promoting an inclusive and supportive culture, and provide a forum with which the Health Board can consult on project and policy matters in relation to equality for LGBTQ+ staff.

Encouraging a culture of inclusivity throughout our organisation is a key priority for our organisation, and, supported by my executive colleagues Stuart Walker and Ruth Walker in their collective sponsorship roles for LGBTQ+ issues across the organisation, the new LGBTQ+ staff network will play an important role in us achieving that.

A committee has been formed to lead the LGBTQ+ Staff Network, who will share further information about the network and how members of staff can get involved soon. In the meantime, to mark LGBTQ+ history month the committee members will be sharing their LGBTQ+ icons from history on our social media channels this week. Please take a look at their choices and get involved by sharing your LGBTQ+ idols from history.

# Health Professions Forum

The Health Professions Forum is seeking new Committee Board members from each of the different professional groups, mirroring the Welsh government advisory committees. The UHB values the input of health professionals in guiding and advising the Board with the Forum Chair having a seat at the Board. This is an opportunity to ensure your department has its say on Board-level matters.

The professional groups needing representatives are:

- Welsh Medical Committee (medical representatives from Primary and Community Care, Mental Health plus Specialist and Tertiary Care);
- Welsh Nursing and Midwifery Committee (representatives from Community Nursing and Midwifery and Hospital Nursing and Midwifery);
- Welsh Therapies Advisory Committee (Therapies representative);

- Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee (Scientific representative);
- Welsh Optometric Committee (Optometry representative);
- Welsh Dental Committee (Dental representative)
- Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee (representatives from Hospital Pharmacists and Community Pharmacists).

The membership of the Health Professions Forum reflects the structure of the seven health Statutory Professional Advisory Committees. There is a minimum of 11 members needed to make up the Forum. Once the members have been selected, they will vote to elect the Chair who will sit in on Board meetings to represent all departments.

If you already sit on one of these advisory committees for your professional group, please do let us know. If you are interested in being involved, please get in touch with [Nicola.Foreman@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Nicola.Foreman@wales.nhs.uk)

## All hospital grounds in Cardiff and Vale Health Board Area to go Smoke-Free from 1st March

As many of you will now be aware, in just less than one week, our hospital grounds will become smoke-free. Building on the 2007 smoking ban, new laws will come into force on Monday to protect people from harmful second-hand smoke and help those trying to quit.

Under these laws, all parts of the hospital grounds will be smoke-free and anyone found breaking the law by smoking in the hospital grounds could face a £100 fine.

The Health Board has been instrumental in supporting a smoke-free hospital environment and was the first health board in Wales to introduce a full No Smoking Ban across all hospital sites. This has required significant engagement and support from all sectors over a 7 year period, resulting in the Health Board being in an excellent position to embrace the new legislation. We know the harms smoking can do to health, so I look forward to having the backing of our staff, patients and visitors, to ensure we all play our part in building a healthier Wales for the future.

[Read more about what this new legislation means here.](#)

## Apply for the EU Settlement Scheme

We are lucky to have a diverse, talented workforce that includes a large proportion of staff from the EU. Their contribution is integral to Health Board and, now that the UK has left the European Union, I want to reiterate our commitment to supporting our colleagues from the EU, and to reassure them that we value their contributions and want them to enjoy fulfilling and secure futures here with us. The EU settlement scheme is an important step towards achieving that, so I would urge staff from the EU to enter that process as soon as possible, before the 30th June 2021 deadline.

The scheme allows you and your family members to get the immigration status you need to continue to live, work and study in the UK beyond 30 June 2021 and continue to be eligible for public services. A range of tools and services are available to help you through the process.

You can apply and find out more information at: [www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](https://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme)

If you require any support or assistance on the process, you can get in touch with a trained advisor at Newfields Law free of charge on 02921690049, via [info@newfieldslaw.com](mailto:info@newfieldslaw.com) or via [www.newfieldslaw.com](https://www.newfieldslaw.com).

I would also urge members of staff from the EU to ensure their nationality is up-to-date in ESR, so that we are able to identify and contact you as soon as possible with any important updates about the settlement scheme.

[Find information on updating your nationality in ESR, which includes a step-by-step guide, here.](#)

## The Future of Vascular Services in South East Wales Public Engagement

It is with great pleasure that I would like to bring to your attention the launch of our public engagement for the South East Wales Vascular Network. We are working with three other Health Boards to gain feedback from as many people as possible. This public engagement opportunity runs until Friday 16th April 2021.

Our Health Boards in South East Wales have long standing working relationships. The South East Wales Vascular Network has been formally established to enhance collaboration and identify the best model of care for the future. The Health Boards involved are Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (AB), Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CAV), Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM) and Powys Teaching Health Board (Powys).

Taking into account national guidance and specialist advice, a hub and spoke model has been identified as the best way to provide future vascular care across the South East Wales region. This model would mean that all major vascular operations are undertaken at the University Hospital of Wales as the hub, while services such as pre-operative assessments, investigations and recovery care will happen closer to people's homes in spoke hospitals.

We want you, the population of South East Wales, to tell us your views on our proposed model of care. Please read The Future of Vascular Services in South East Wales Core Document Summary and submit your feedback through our online survey. [You can do this via our web page.](#)



## Help us help you

As part of our #HelpUsHelpYou campaign we are highlighting the ongoing hard work and sacrifices our staff members are undertaking in order to keep us all safe. We hope this will serve as a reminder that we all have a part to play in protecting each other. We must all continue to comply with the advice from Welsh Government and Public Health Wales – Maintain physical distancing, wear a mask when required and wash hands regularly.

[Hear more from Clare Landells, duty manager at Llandough here.](#)



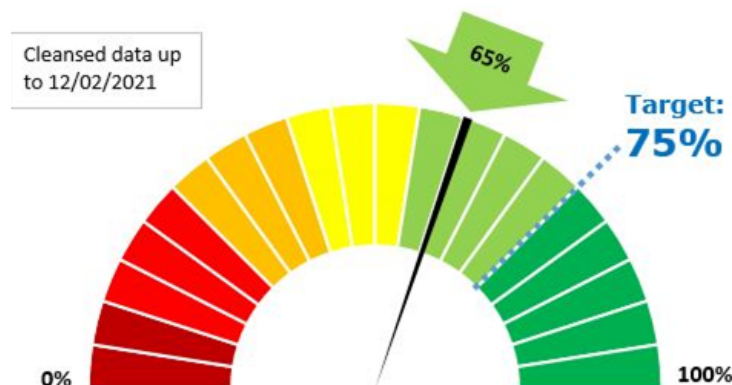
## 65% of staff vaccinated against flu

65% of our frontline staff have now received a flu vaccination. If you are a health board staff member, please remember that you can contact your Clinical Board Flu Lead to arrange a flu vaccination.

Occupational Health continue to offer seasonal flu vaccines to UHB staff - health board staff should call Internal 43264 or External 02920 743264 in advance to book a slot.

Open access clinics are also available each Friday between 9am and 4pm at Denbigh House, UHW.

Thank you once again to all staff involved in the delivery of this programme for their determination and hard work.



## 20 years of service with Cardiff and Vale UHB

Angie Carpio and Marvi Pinera recently celebrated 20 years with the health board. Angie is a senior scrub nurse, and Marvi now an Anaesthetic Practitioner/Perioperative Specialist.



Angie said that she is proud to work for the NHS and has always found her job fulfilling: "It is a rewarding career, knowing that at the end of my shift I have made a real difference to my patient or even saved a life."

Marvi started her work at MEAU Llandough Hospital, and went onto work in cardiac nursing, and then anaesthetic nursing. She's been based at the Obstetrics Theatres since 2012. She said that taking a role in the department was one of the best decisions she has ever made, and is grateful for all the support and encouragement she has received here.

I would like to congratulate Angie and Marvi for completing 20 years with us, and thank them for the contribution they have made to the Health Board and to the lives of individuals and their families over the years.

## Virtual Rare Disease Day UK Parliamentary Event

This year's Rare Disease Day will see all 4 of UK's rare disease ministers taking part in a virtual parliamentary event Wednesday, 24 February. The event has been organized by Genetic Alliance UK, to highlight the recently published UK Rare Diseases Framework.

Angela Burns MS, is also set to unveil a series of recommendations highlighting key issues affecting people living with rare conditions across Wales.

Rare Disease represents a significant component of the work carried out by the Genomics Partnership Wales, and its partners (All Wales Medical Genomics Service and Wales Gene Park) as part of delivering Welsh Governments' Genomics for Precision Medicine Strategy.

There are a number of ways to get involved in the virtual activities leading up to Rare Disease Day which falls on Sunday, 28 February.

# Other News and Events

## UHW Critical Care's Rehab Games

UHW Critical Care Unit and Physiotherapy department engaged in a bit of fun and friendly competition by hosting The Rehab Games. A great way to motivate patients and staff.

Calvin claimed victory as champion. Calvin had been in intensive care for a total of 6 months (including some time in London for Specialist Care) and has now left, but not before taking home the trophy!



## Office 365 Training

Further training sessions in Microsoft Office 365 are being offered to staff. You can access the calendar via [the staff intranet](#). Please email Mary.Nsikan@wales.nhs.uk to sign up.

## The Grapevine to reopen

Great news for staff at UHW as the Grapevine fruit and veg vendor has announced that it is reopening from March 1st 2020.

## Fruitful Office's Weekly Fruit Donation to NHS Staff

A big thank you to Fruitful Office for their continued donations to staff across the Health Board. [Read more.](#)

## Go the Distance with Adam Harcombe for the Prop Appeal

An inpatient at Rookwood Hospital's Neurosciences Specialist Rehabilitation Unit has decided to complete a timeline of events in 2021, starting with a 26 mile challenge throughout March to support the Prop Appeal! [Read more.](#)

## Local Photographer Seeks to Reinvigorate the Community Support for the NHS

Photographer Conor Elliott is looking to inject a fresh approach to the support for the NHS and other key workers. [Read more.](#)