

***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
2019 Report and Strategic Plan***

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Introduction and Context

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board recognises its responsibility for the protection of our global environment through the management of its Estate portfolio to ensure that optimum healthcare is provided with the minimum negative impact on our environment, biodiversity and related ecosystems.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 has introduced enhanced duties associated with biodiversity and ecosystems (Section 6 duty) for Public Authorities in Wales and the Health Board is required to establish and implement the necessary Strategic Plan and associated programmes to comply with this duty.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) premises consist of a diverse range of hospitals, health centres, clinics and various other premises as follows:

Table 1: Summary of UHB Premises

Property Description	Site/Hospital Name
Large Multi Service hospitals	University Hospital of Wales, University Hospital Llandough
Community Hospitals	St David's Hospital, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Barry Hospital
Specialist Hospitals	Rookwood Hospital
Community Patient and Support Facilities	34 sites in total

The combined floor area of the Large Multi Service Hospitals and Community Hospitals is over 80% of the total Estate and therefore will have the most significant environmental and biodiversity impact compared to the remainder of the Estate.

Furthermore these sites have significant operational activity and will therefore have the maximum potential for biodiversity impact.

UHB Duty and Responsibilities

Under the '*Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 Guidance for Section 6 – The biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Reporting Guidance*' the UHB is categorised under Group 3 of the type of organisations and Section 6 actions. The Health Board has a duty to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity wherever possible within the proper exercise of its functions.

Group 3 Organisations are those that '*own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not*'.

The actions that need to be undertaken to satisfy the responsibilities of a Group 3 Organisation include:

- Buildings management
- Procurement
- Sustainability
- Awareness raising, education and training
- Grounds and land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.

Biodiversity benefits

Biodiversity provides a range of benefits from personal, society and business aspects:

- **Global** – *Protection and promotion of wildlife, natural habitats and ecosystems and the reversal (where possible) of biodiversity damage and degradation.*
- **Personal and Social** – *Healthy biodiversity promotes a healthy locality and social cultures.*
- **Health and well-being** – *The delivery of healthcare with minimum impact on biodiversity will improve well-being of patients, visitors and staff. Healthy habitats and wildlife provides environmental conditions to support health and well-being and will therefore aid patient recovery. Access to green spaces have been shown to aid well-being*
- **Business and Finance** – *Management of biodiversity results in effective and efficient management of the Estates Portfolio and positive reputational image.*

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act 2015 details the following 7 goals (Fig 1, below). Enhancing and maintaining biodiversity will positively impact on a number of these goals, mapped below.



Impact Statement – How the UHB affects biodiversity

The UHB impacts on biodiversity in the following key areas, mapped to the WFG goals.

Table 2 – Summary of UHB biodiversity impacts

Description	Description of impact	WFG goals
Procurement	Purchase, Manufacture, Supply and transport of goods and materials to the UHB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A globally Responsible Wales
Energy and Emissions management	Direct and indirect combustion emissions affecting air quality and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A globally Responsible Wales • A Resilient Wales

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Healthier Wales
Water and Effluent disposal	Use of water, water treatments and disposal of effluent to drain affecting water based biodiversity. This includes rain water and sewage systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A globally Responsible Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales
Waste management	Generation, management, recycling and disposal of waste will directly affect biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A globally Responsible Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales
Sustainable Travel and Transport	Traffic management, UHB vehicle use and sustainable travel options will directly affect biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A globally Responsible Wales • A Resilient Wales • A Healthier Wales
Land Management	Maintenance of grounds, gardens, paths, roadways and roofs will directly affect biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A globally Responsible Wales • A Resilient Wales

We will embed the WFG ways of working (long-term, prevention, integration, collaboration, involvement) in our approach to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.

UHB Environmental Management System

The UHB operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) and has achieved the International Standard ISO14001 Accreditation and is externally assessed through the British Standards Institution (BSI).

The EMS is managed through the Capital Estates and Facilities (CEF) Service Board and has established an Environmental Management Steering Group Chaired by the Director of CEF. Membership includes all key stakeholders who impact/influence Environmental Management including Estates, Energy and Waste Management, Facilities and Clinical Boards.

The UHB also operates an overarching Environmental Management Policy which includes Energy, Water and Sustainability Management. This is managed and approved through the Health and Safety Committee, which reports to the Board.


Biodiversity management and reporting will be integrated into this existing governance mechanism, with key reports copied to the UHB's Wellbeing of Future Generations Steering Group for information and assurance.

Biodiversity management and projects

The UHB currently undertakes the following programme of activities and initiatives in relation to biodiversity and Section 6 duties:

Table 3: Summary of current activities and initiatives.

Description	Activity	Responsibility
Maintenance of grounds, gardens and pathways	Grass cutting, weeding, planting and management of borders/ courtyard gardens and 'seeded' roofs (Hafan-y-Coed), litter and leaf picking,	Estates Department
	Annual Tree Surveys undertaken as required and specialist contractors engaged for tree maintenance and preservation.	Estates Department
	UHW Lakeside Pond managed and maintained through specialist contractor.	Estates Department
	Control of wildlife managed as necessary through specialist contractor and appropriate pest control measures adopted.	Estates Department
Capital projects	Capital Schemes are developed and designed in line with relevant biodiversity standards and guidelines including: BREAM Assessments, Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SABS), Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) etc	Capital Planning
Green space biodiversity projects	<p>The UHB has/is undertaking a range of projects regarding "green space" actions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of wildlife initiatives including bird feeders, bird bath and bug hotel at Rookwood Hospital, bird boxes within the University Hospital Llandough site. We are exploring introducing hedgehog dwellings at Our Orchard site UHL. • Introducing a small wild meadow area at Barry Hospital. • Introducing Bee hives to the roof at Cochrane Building UHW and Llanfair Unit UHL. 	Arts and Health Charity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring utilising the green space at Pendine Centre through the Community Mental Health Team as a small growing area. • Ein Berllan – Our Orchard will be a semi-natural planted area which has been set aside for the protection of plants and wildlife. It consists of 7 acres of semi-rural pasture land and woodland which makes up part of the University Hospital Llandough estate. 	
<p>Awareness activities</p>	<p>Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Cardiff & Vale Health Charity won a Silver-Gilt medal and Best Blossoming Bed at RHS Cardiff in 2019.</p> 	<p>Arts and Health Charity</p>

Report and Strategic Action Plan

Preliminary initial recommendations

To meet the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Duties the following initial recommendations and actions have been highlighted for the UHB:

- **Commission a specialist biodiversity assessment and audit**
 - The UHB will engage a recognised specialist organisation to assess the UHB in relation to the requirements of the Section 6 duties and to develop prioritised and costed recommendations to achieve compliance.
 - The study will provide the UHB with a full understanding of the wildlife, ecosystems and habitats which are present within the portfolio of the Estate including their condition and prosperity.
 - The assessment and audit will also include a gap analysis and identify any risks with associated RAG rating.
- **Enhance our Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan**
 - The UHB will enhance and develop our actions relating to biodiversity in response to the findings and recommendations of the biodiversity assessment and audit. During development of the enhanced Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan we will consult with key stakeholders and partners, and the enhanced Plan will be published by Q3 2020/21
- **Governance and reporting arrangements**
 - The UHB will integrate the governance processes for implementing the biodiversity duty into the existing Environmental Management System. The arrangements will include the Reporting structure, Roles, Responsibilities and Resources to achieve the aims and objectives of the Plan.

Specific actions to address the NRAP objectives

The following responses to the six Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) objectives will be modified and refined in light of the findings and recommendations of the biodiversity assessment and audit.

NRAP Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

The UHB shall establish the necessary corporate governance arrangements to ensure that the Health Board and associated stakeholders fully participate and embed biodiversity throughout appropriate decision making.

This shall be achieved through:

- The Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan and its management shall be the responsibility of the Environmental Management Steering Group (EMSG) and covered as part of the UHB's Environmental Management System.
- Roles and Responsibilities shall be defined as part of the Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.
- Specific Task and Finish Groups where necessary shall be established to undertake biodiversity projects and focussed areas of work/study.
- The aims of the Plan will be developed into SMART objectives for each of the NRAP objectives and integrated as appropriate into Corporate and local departmental objectives.
- Annual action plans shall be developed with the necessary timescales, resources and leads for each action.
- Awareness, education and training shall be provided for appropriate staff.
- Monitoring and review process via the EMSG shall be established to assess and monitor action plan progress (further details in Objective 5).

NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

To satisfy the requirements of this objective the following actions will be undertaken:

- Identify the current status of species and habitats of principal importance which are present in the Estate portfolio.
- Identify and prioritise the requirements of the habitats of principal importance.
- Develop and implement an effective, practical and cost/resource efficient action plan to enable the prioritised requirements to be achieved.
- The Strategic action plan will include a balance between the protection and promotion of species and the avoidance of UHB services being affected/challenged by the presence of these species e.g. squirrels, rats, mice, seagulls, pigeons etc.
- The UHB will respond to the recommendations of the Area Statement covering Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan when published by Natural Resources Wales

NRAP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

To satisfy the requirements of this objective the following actions will be undertaken:

- Identify the current status and 'health' of the UHB's habitats, associated networks and their level of degradation and/or their prosperity and growth.
- Identify and prioritise the requirements of the habitats which require the most urgent support and development.
- Develop and implement an effective, practical and cost/resource efficient action plan to enable the prioritised requirements to be achieved.

- The action plan will include a balance between the protection and promotion of habitats and the avoidance of UHB services being affected/challenged e.g Health and Safety, Infection Prevention and Control etc.

NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

These requirements will be met through the actions in Objectives 2 and 3.

NRAP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

The UHB will achieve this through the following actions:

- Identify information and data that needs to be gathered and collated regarding biodiversity.
- Establish a biodiversity monitoring programme to present the information and data recorded.
- Establish and implement the following reporting mechanisms:
 1. KPI's developed to monitor biodiversity performance and progress.
 2. Establish trends and profiles regarding biodiversity.
 3. Undertake biodiversity benchmarking where possible.
 4. Integrate findings into continual improvement action plans.
- Establish a routine reporting process to report biodiversity performance to the Environmental Management Steering Group, associated forums and highlight performance in the UHB's annual Sustainability report.
- Include biodiversity within ISO14001 audits with BSI.
- Implement a programme of biodiversity awareness and training initiatives for key staff who have roles and responsibilities for biodiversity.
- Highlight biodiversity performance, progress and achievements throughout the UHB using appropriate communications routes.

NRAP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

These requirements will be met through the actions of Objectives 1 and 5.

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