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WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST HELD ON FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2025 VIA TEAMS Chair: Hannah Rowan

MEMBERS:

Hannah Rowan	Non-Executive Director and Committee Chair
Jayne Beeslee	Non-Executive Director
Hayley Hutchings	Non-Executive Director

IN ATTENDANCE:

Julie Boalch	Assistant Director of Corporate Governance & Risk
Aasha Cowey	Assistant Director of Digital Services: Digital Transformation & Innovation
Alex Crawford	Assistant Director of Planning and Transformation
Ed Harry	Professional Development Lead (item 70/24 only)
Estelle Hitchon	Director of Partnerships and Engagement
Caroline Jones	Corporate Governance Officer
Jo Kelso	Head of Workforce Education & Development
Carl Kneeshaw	Director of People
Trish Mills	Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary
Alex Payne	Corporate Governance Manager (left after 69/24)
Nigel Rees	Assistant Director of Research and Innovation
Kerry Robertshaw	Professional Development Lead- Advanced Practice (item 70/24 only)
Hayley Stevens	Advanced Paramedic Practitioner (item 70/24 only)
Andy Swinburn	Executive Director of Paramedicine

APOLOGIES:

Jonathan Chippendale	Assistant Director for Clinical Development
James Houston	Head of Strategy Development
Mark Marsden	Trade Union Representative
Keith Rogers	Trade Union Representative
Jonny Sammut	Director of Digital Services

65/24 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Hannah Rowan welcomed everyone bilingually to the meeting, noting it was Jayne Beeslee and Aasha Cowey's first meeting.

In the interest of time management, Hannah asked Members if there were any other business items to be raised later in the meeting.

She outlined the agenda and highlighted the Annual Effectiveness Review item, encouraging Members to consider what works well at Committee and any areas for improvement for the session.

66/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Estelle Hitchon declared that she had become an independent member of Coleg Sirgâr, affiliated with the University of Wales Trinity St David's with effect from today.

Estelle confirmed she would update her declaration form for this new interest to be recorded on the register.

Aasha Cowey, new in post, declared that she is associated with the British Computer Society (BCS) as a Chartered IT Professional (CITP) and an Advanced Practitioner with the Federation for Informatics Professionals. Additionally, she volunteers with a community interest company called Karate for Mental Health.

Trish Mills reiterated that the Trust encourages colleagues to have external interests because of the experience and exposure it brings to committees and there was an acknowledgment of the richness these bring to the meetings.

RESOLVED:

The additional declarations raised by Estelle Hitchon and Aasha Cowey were noted alongside those recorded on the register.

67/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2024 were approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the meeting held on the 18 November 2024 were approved.

68/24 ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING

Action 52/24 – Research and Innovation next steps - Andy Swinburn discussed the resource allocation for the research team and the broader investment in research activities across departments. He mentioned that the budget outlook for the coming year was not particularly positive; however, he emphasised that he would be advocating for the research team's needs. Action closed.

Action 53/24a – University Trust Status Benefits Realisation – The concept of a centre of excellence across all activities rather than a single area of focus and the need for patient benefit as well as staff to be more visible and explicit. Committee agreed to close the action as it was to be discussed later in the agenda.

Action 53/24b - – University Trust Status Benefits Realisation – pulling out the patient and people elements of the priorities for inclusion within the Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) – Action closed.

Action 53/24c - – University Trust Status Benefits Realisation- proposal via the effectiveness reviews as to whether learning and development remains with People and Culture Committee or transfers to this committee. Action to remain open.

Action 55/24 – Research Governance Framework. Leanne Smith was looking at growing a data science capability to move beyond just accessing data to predictive modelling and using information to drive decision making. The Chair referenced the update on the National Data Repository, which was expected to come to a meeting post March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the

- 1) action log was reviewed, and actions closed as proposed above; and**
- 2) the National Data Repository referenced would be brought to a future meeting.**

69/24 ANNUAL EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW 2024/25

Trish Mills spoke of the purpose of the committee, which was originally to guide the Trust's journey to achieving University Trust Status and now that had been accomplished monitored against it would be through the Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP). Members acknowledged that the committee now had more scope to explore ideas and shape its purpose unlike other committees given its current business and terms of reference. Members commented that the name of committee and the membership for the next stage of its journey should be considered to reflect new and agreed priorities and the direction of travel. A presentation was delivered to support members with the committee's effectiveness review.

The committee's annual effectiveness review was held, noting that a revised approach had been taken across all committees this year. A discussion was facilitated to consider the possible future remit of the committee including areas such as innovation, digital, research, commercialisation and education and training (specifically further education, acknowledging the oversight reporting with the People & Culture Committee on leadership, development and statutory & mandatory training). All of which would be driven by the alignment to the strategic objective of 'being at the forefront of innovation and technology' and the Health and Care Quality Standards, particularly the enabler of 'learning, improvement and research'.

The Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee's role once they receive the complete set of reports from all seven committees, would be to evaluate whether the distribution of responsibilities and tasks among these committees is suitable. They must then provide assurance to the Board that this distribution is appropriate. This involves examining

the overall spread and considering the duration of tasks and the feedback from committee members.

It was noted that there was minimal regular reporting in the committee's cycle of business which primarily focused on updates on the Research Governance Framework and the Annual Review. It was recognised that the current terms of reference will not align with the direction of the committee going forward and will need to be updated.

There was a broader discussion on how to ensure the committee remained effective and aligned to the Trust's strategic goals with members agreeing that digital innovation was a significant part in the Trust's future and the importance of collaboration across directorates. It may be better suited in this committee's remit.

Trish Mills discussed the research focus of the committee emphasising the importance of ensuring robust frameworks for research activities. She highlighted the role of the committee in assuring the board that these frameworks are effective and meet organisational requirements. Trish mentioned the Healthcare Research Wales (HCRW) research governance framework as a valuable guide for assessing the implementation of research activities across all ten pillars. She also noted the potential for developing research Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) but acknowledged the resource constraints faced by the Research and Innovation team

Committee endorsed the proposal to meet three times rather than four in 2025/26 to afford time for the Executive Leadership Team to undertake the necessary work on the remit of committee, particularly relating to the innovation and education and training elements. The July 2025 meeting would then serve as a continuation of the effectiveness review discussion. The Board and Committee calendar of dates would be presented at the Trust Board meeting on 30 January 2025 and the revised schedule is reflected in that calendar.

The draft committee Annual Report was received; however, the final report for submission to the Board would be circulated for approval by Chair's Action after the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The terms of reference would be reshaped to align with the new purpose and direction of the Committee;**
- 2) The focus would be on robust frameworks for Research and Innovation;**
- 3) The quarter one meeting be removed to allow time for work to be progressed;**
- 4) The draft Annual Report was reviewed ahead of its finalisation which would be approved by Chair's Action post meeting.**

70/24 STAFF STORY – HAYLEY STEVENS

Kerry Robertshaw, Consultant Paramedic, Ed Harry, Professional Development Lead, and Hayley Stevens, Advanced Paramedic Practitioner, attended to share Hayley's experience of undertaking the MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice and an overview of the dissertation on comparing independent prescribing to Patient Group Direction (PGD) use in a general practitioner out-of-hours service: a retrospective cross-sectional service evaluation.

Hayley highlighted the autonomy differences between Nurse Prescribers and Advanced Paramedic Practitioners (APPs) and the need for prescriber support. Her study compared Nurse Prescribers to APPs using PGDs, analysing almost 400 records between 2019 and 2020. The focus was on common conditions such as urinary, respiratory, soft tissue, ear complaints and abdominal pain.

It was noted that whilst there was no significant difference in the number of medications given by both groups, it was noted that APPs sought prescriber support more frequently.

PGD use with good supports allowed APPs to provide similar medication levels as Nurse Prescribers however, PGD use alone was not sufficient to meet service demand.

Hayley Stevens emphasised the importance of research in improving patient care and the need for better support for staff pursuing research. She referenced the potential for adapting current PGDs to better meet demand. Kerry Robertshaw confirmed that good progress had been made in this area since Hayley undertook her MSc and that staff are now fully supported from the beginning of their journey.

Hannah Rowan commended Hayley's efforts to balance the dissertation with family circumstances and discussed the importance of supporting research in the Trust. Plans to create a central repository for research work and to collaborate with the Research and Innovation department were discussed and to be brought to a future meeting.

Members commended Hayley for the significant work undertaken to translate a dissertation into a published paper, the contribution to the body of growing evidence to support advanced paramedic practice and associated prescribing in Wales and concurred with the proposal for a research group to showcase and pursue research projects across the Trust.

Andy Swinburn highlighted to Members that the Trust was the only prescribing ambulance service in the UK and was at the forefront of innovation in this area.

RESOLVED: The work undertaken by Hayley Stevens to support advanced paramedic practice and associated prescribing in Wales, was recognised and commended by the Committee.

71/24 UNIVERSITY TRUST STATUS BENEFITS REALISATION UPDATE

Members received an update on the University Trust Status (UTS) Benefits Realisation, and the priorities included in the 2025-28 Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP) across different areas.

Members considered draft proposals to measure the benefits these priorities would have on our patients and our people, balancing ambition with feasibility particularly when discussing the Centre of Excellence. Members noted the importance of external validation on this ensuring it aligned to the Trust's strategic objectives and the work on the committee's future purpose and remit.

Increasing staff participation in learning and development opportunities, enhancing skills and improving patient care aligned with the strategic objective of enabling staff to be their best.

Development and embedding of partnerships with a focus on collaboration, innovative models of care and cutting-edge techniques supported the strategic objective around innovation and quality driven, clinically led services.

The conclusion was the need to refine the priorities, integrate them into the IMTP and ensure they were realistic and achievable.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) there was a need to refine the priorities, integrate them into the IMTP and ensure they were both realistic and achievable; and**
- 2) further discussions to define and implement the concept of centres of excellence, considering existing work and potential gaps, be held.**

72/24 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND CYCLE MONITORING REPORT

The Cycle Monitoring Report was received with nothing to escalate. The Committee noted that the research key performance indicators would be further developed into 2025/26 as the Research Governance Framework evolved and that the Research and Innovation Annual Report had been deferred from quarter four and would be received at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the update regarding the Committee Priorities and Cycle Monitoring Report.

73/24 REFLECTIONS AND SUMMARY OF DECISIONS/ACTIONS

There were no formal reflections for this meeting as they were taken as part of the effectiveness review and would be reflected in the committee Annual Report; however, there was an agreement that the meeting generated excellent discussion on the Committee's direction of travel and was inclusively chaired.

74/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business raised.

75/24 KEY MESSAGES FOR BOARD DECISIONS / ACTIONS

The Highlight report would be a high-level update to provide the Board with a summary of the meeting at its meeting at the end of March 2025.

76/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next Committee meeting is 8 July 2025.