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Ymddiriedolaeth GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
NHS Trust

## **WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES NHS TRUST**

### **CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES NHS TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JULY 2022 VIA TEAMS**

#### **MEMBERS :**

Kevin Davies	Non Executive Director and Chair
Paul Hollard	Non Executive Director
Hannah Rowan	Non Executive Director

#### **IN ATTENDANCE :**

Julie Boalch	Head of Risk/Deputy Board Secretary
Catherine Goodwin	Interim Director of Workforce and OD
Estelle Hitchon	Director of Partnerships and Engagement
Jo Kelso	Head of Education Transformation
Mark Marsden	Trade Union Partner
Jeff Prescott	Corporate Governance Officer
Keith Rogers	TU Partner
Leanne Smith	Assistant Director of Digital

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Trish Mills	Board Secretary
Duncan Robertson	Interim Assistant Director of Research, Audit & Service Improvement
Andy Swinburn	Director of Paramedicine
Jonathan Turnbull-Ross	Assistant Director of Quality Governance
Martin Turner	Non Executive Director

#### **35/22 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that the meeting was originally intended to be face to face in Swansea; however, had reverted to a virtual meeting due to the current pressures being faced by the Trust.

Members introduced themselves as it was the first meeting for both Leanne Smith and Keith Rogers.

#### **36/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The standing declaration of interest of Professor Kevin Davies being an independent Trustee of St John Ambulance Cymru was recorded. It was also noted he was a Professor of the

University of South Wales.

Hannah Rowan declared a working relationship with Cardiff Metropolitan University Education Department.

### **37/22 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2022 were approved as a correct record.

### **38/22 ACTION LOG**

**11/21 – Universities Wales letter of invitation** – The Director of Partnerships and Engagement agreed to update members as part of the update at agenda item 5. The action was closed.

**07/22 – Trust Priorities aligned with the ITMP** - The priorities are mapped to the IMTP with the Finance and Performance Committee monitoring these, with exception reporting to this Committee if needed. The action was closed.

**RESOLVED: That**

**1) 11/21 would be discussed as part of the agenda; and**

**2) 07/22 action was complete and could be closed.**

### **39/22 DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Director of Partnerships and Engagement began by updating members on the correspondence with Ben Arnold from Universities Wales and that a response was still awaited to allow the Committee to move forward with engaging an all Wales university representative.

At a recent event, it was recognised that a Health Board with a similar Academic Partnership Committee had secured multiple Higher Education partners and managed any potential conflicts of interest with strong governance.

It was suggested that the Chair, Director of Partnerships and Engagement, the Board Secretary, the Head of Education and Head of Risk/Deputy Board Secretary meet to discuss how best to approach universities and develop the relationships.. Members were keen to secure volunteers who would be willing to work with the Trust and look at the opportunities available.

The Director of Partnerships and Engagement continued to apprise members on the progress to date of mapping the engagement interfaces across the Trust, in order to review where relationships already existed. It was agreed that the full mapping exercise would be considered at the next meeting.

Members discussed and agreed that a primary Welsh University representative would be key to the Committee however also it was also agreed that to ensure best fit, innovation and relationship building, a national representative for niche areas could be considered.

The Director of Partnerships and Engagement had attended a recent University and Designation Showcase event involving all health organisations across Wales. Of those

organisations who already held university status, it would be a requirement from this year for them to provide a mid year review of their priorities in relation to activity and outcomes. This would be in addition to the routine IMTP monitoring reports that were also required. The Trust was also required to provide an update on its priorities as set out within the application for university status. It was anticipated that the report would need to be submitted early October to cover the April to September period.

The Head of Education reiterated the focus needed to be on improving the service through innovation, research, training and education.

Following a discussion on qualifications issued by institutions and the need to explore opportunities for innovation and improvement and connection with high quality, action research which can be applied in practice. The Chair asked the TU Partners to relay to colleagues the opportunities that university status/partnerships would bring to ensure that all staff felt included regardless of their academic status or ambition.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1) a small group meet to discuss the way forward in approaching universities;**
- 2) the full mapping of engagement interfaces be brought to the next meeting; and**
- 3) a mid year review of priorities in relation to activity and outcome be presented to the Trust Board in September.**

**40/22 PRIORITY ONE: DIGITISATION ENABLING BETTER OUTCOMES: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The Assistant Director of Digital set out the ambition to build on the work already ongoing within the Trust with regard to digital opportunities in partnership with academia.

The Assistant Director presented to the Committee on what successful partnerships look like and where potential opportunities may lie. The presentation included the Great Ormond Street Innovation Accelerator Data, Research, Innovation and Virtual Environments Unit (DRIVE) which was a data management platform. The innovation element involved staff across different sectors being able to turn ideas into implementation.

The University College London Industry Exchange Network was another example which saw students engage with industry as part of their computer science degrees.

With regard to opportunities, the Director confirmed that in order to engage with partners, problem areas first needed to be identified to look at the fields such as accessibility, efficiency, quality and equity for future engagement, aligning it with the Trust's strategy and aims. With these areas the potential digital interests such as speech recognition and artificial intelligence could be explored further.

There were a number of organisations who were keen to, or had previously collaborated with the Trust from a digital angle. The potential forms of collaboration were in education and training, research and innovation and industry/academic partnerships to problem solve.

The Assistant Director noted that the areas that the Trust would be seeking partnership with, could be pitched to academia who would welcome the opportunity to work with the Trust to provide solutions. It was noted that currently the Trust did not have the capacity to support

innovation streams.

Members welcomed the presentation and asked the Director of Partnerships and Engagement to contact a member of the WIIN team to liaise with Great Ormond Street team to look at what could be learnt. Members also requested that digital opportunities be highlighted across the Trust with a potential session for Board members at a development day.

**RESOLVED: That**

**1) the Director of Partnerships and Engagement ask a member of the WIIN team to contact Great Ormond Street and look at opportunities for learning; and**

**2) the Interim Director of Digital liaise with the Board Secretary on holding a Board Development session to explore digital partnership opportunities.**

**41/22 KEY MESSAGES FOR BOARD**

- 1) Development opportunities for digitisation across the Trust for a Board Development session
- 2) links with Academia to be established
- 3) emphasising the ambition, opportunities and development for career development for all staff
- 4) mid year review of university priorities to September Board for sight and sign off.
- 5) board be sighted on the change of process to progress an academic representative

**42/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**25 October 2022**