

Minutes of the 51st meeting of the BDA Wales Board held on Thursday 23 July 2020 via Microsoft Teams from 09:30 – 12:00

Present:	Kate Harrod-Wild (KHW)	Board Chair
	Caroline Bovey (CB)	Board of Directors
	Karen Thomas (KT)	Board Member
	Helen Nicholls (HN)	Board Member
	Rhiannon Williams (RW)	Board Member
	Sioned Quirke (SQ)	Board Member
	Enzo Di Battista (ED)	Board Member
	Sian O Shea (SO)	Board Member
	Chris Cashin (CC)	Board Member
In Attendance:	Sandra Tyrrell (ST)	BDA Policy Officer for Wales
	Amanda Squire (AS)	BDA Policy Officer for Wales
	Steve Austin (SA)	BDA National Employment Relations Officer
	Jo Lewis (JL)	BDA Partnerships Manager

Item **ACTION****51/1** **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Judyth Jenkins (JJ), Zoe Paul-Gough (ZPG).

51/2 **Minutes of previous meeting**

Typos amended, otherwise minutes agreed.

51/3 **Matters arising from previous minutes****i) HEIW meeting – AS reported back to board**

Originally 52 spaces were agreed, this has now increased to 60 bursary commissioned places for this year and next year. There should be hopefully be no problem enrolling fully to these places – will hopefully appoint from clearing.

ii) Student training:

Dietitians are the first profession to send students to placement starting September 2020. The learning outcomes will remain the same, however, the amount of evidence is to be amended. The assessment tools need to provide quality evidence that demonstrate their capabilities rather than the students completing large quantities of tools. Post graduates are planned to be on placement 3 from December 2020. Students had to be removed from placement in March 2020 due to Covid. Students are now included on NHS life insurance policies and have death in service rights – they are now able to go onto placement and considered to be part of the workforce. This is being done to allow graduation to take place within the same time line as normal so that students will be available to take up Band 5 vacancies.

51/4

Chairman's Update

KHW introduced herself and her professional background to the board. She also described her vision for her time as Chair – to work towards the board more widely representing the Dietetic profession in Wales, with a membership that included all areas of Wales, all categories of membership and the differing areas of Dietetic practice.

51/5

Board of Director Update

CB explained her role on the Wales Board as she is also representing the Wales country on the Board of Directors. It is important to note, that the person who is representing the country on the Board of Directors, also resides in that country, i.e. Wales.

CB provided an update from the Board of Directors meeting.

51/6

Review of members of the board

KHW has reviewed the BDA Country Boards Constitution and the BDA Bwrdd Cymru Membership document. Discussion took place around places that are currently vacant (Deputy Chair, Student member role) and the term that each member should serve. It was agreed that in one year (July 2021) there should be a review of the members time served. It was noted that there should be between 6-10 members and that currently the member numbers were more than this. ED took this opportunity to step down from his role, to allow the phased transition. It was highlighted that the Wales Board should be represented by all (or at least most) of the health boards in Wales and that there should be a representation for differing areas of practice such as public health, primary care and secondary care. HN highlighted that Cardiff and Vale had three members, she will discuss this with her department. AS reports that Milly Durrant, who is the BDA Director of Membership is organising a virtual visit to the dietetic students in Autumn. Noted, that the student rep and support worker rep are non-voting positions.

Current members: -



**BDA Bwrdd Cymru
Wales Board memb**

- HN to discuss with Cardiff and Vale number of members on the board.
- KHW will draft an action plan to propose phasing of member and recruiting for current vacant positions.
- All – to discuss at WDLAG how to ensure that all/most of the HBs are represented.

**HN
KHW**

ALL

51/7

Covid virus – Dietetic Role

Dietitians have been publicised and highlighted for their role in response to Covid. Discussion took place as to how to continue to highlight the role of the dietitian. It was discussed that HN is on the working group for the Primary Care model. The following points were highlighted: -

- How to be further involved in this topic
- Impacts on job descriptions/ who employs
- The wider vision – articulating this vision

HN, CB, ZPG, ST and KHW to set a date to meet to discuss this further.

**HN, CB,
ZPG, ST,
KHW**

Discussion took place that Health Boards have a responsibility of promoting role with communications. SQ reports that she contacted her hospital communications team and requested for the role of AHPs and dietitians during COVID to be promoted.

Discussion that this should be raised at the upcoming WTAC meeting in August 2020.

SA discussed that there has been an awareness of raising the professional profile but to be aware that there may be criticism at times too. He also raised awareness that in Primary Care (England) there has been uncertainty about the recruitment model and to be aware that employment of the individual should be considered, who would be responsible for employing the individual to post.

HN reports that a website called keepmewell.com has been designed which has information from all AHPs, and displays videos and information about wellness and Covid. The Covid rehab team in Cardiff and Vale who carry out dietary assessments are promoting information about diet and loss of muscle mass for Covid patients. This website may be useful for other Health Boards.

51/8

Draft Workplan

The workplan was discussed that it should ideally be more `short and snappy` to go to the Board of Directors with a detailed plan behind it for Wales board to use. It was discussed that the Wales Board plan needs to align with the BDA Board of Directors aims, and that needed to know the timescale of the new BDA approach.

ST to find out the timescale for the plan to be submitted.

ST

51/9

REHABILITATION: Post Covid-19 Evaluation Framework

KHW reported that on reviewing this framework, there was no measures for dietetics. ST and KHW have a meeting tomorrow with Ruth Crowder to discuss this framework. Discussion took place of what measures could be considered. The following points were discussed: -

- Outcomes – need to be clear what improved measures can see, improvement in reduced muscle mass is significant.
- Significant amounts of calories and protein are needed for the patient to rehab alongside physiotherapy.
- What matters – optimise functional improvement,
- What is an outcome and what is a measure?
- Capture the impact of the effect the dietitian has with the patient.

51/10

Manifesto feedback

ST discussed ongoing meetings with various political groups alongside the policy officer group. The last meeting was with Plaid Cymru, it was useful to use the manifesto and discuss it in line with the Covid response.

51/11

Plaid Cymru plea for ideas post-Covid

KH will review Tom Embury's paper and circulate for additional comments. HN will liaise with Emma Holmes about the concerns about child poverty and particularly in relation to the SHEP stopping for the summer.

KHW to simplify Tom Embury's letter to highlight key points.
HN to contact Emma Holmes and link in details.

**KHW
HN**

51/12

Welsh Conservative Round Table

KH discussed the round table event last week, the key asks were: -

- Covid – prevention and rehab

ST to review briefing information KHW prepared for the event, add BDA formatting etc and send to the Conservative party once approved by KHW and Tom Embury.

ST

Trade Union

- Education and training – training to be delivered more remotely in future.
- Staff surveys – these have taken place on large scale, but in future will be smaller and more select.
- Antibody testing – some people are concerned to have testing as there have been reports that this has had an impact with insurance companies, this shouldn't be affected and people shouldn't be put off being tested.
- PPE – the briefing meeting has now been changed to fortnightly rather than weekly. It was noted that PPE is now being produced in Wales, and therefore there will be ample PPE available for restocking.
- Testing – mobile testing is continuing. There is a 2-day turnaround for results. However, there is a delay putting this information on to medical records.
- Badge scheme – to launch a badge which is to promote social distancing.
- A survey of 300 participants is about to be published. This is about issues in the workplace.
- TUC should have taken place in May 2020; this will now move to May 2021.
- The main TUC will take place in September 2020, in London, the general council will be present and virtual. The topics are Children's Food Charter and NHS Supply Chain.
- BAME – groups are to be set up in this area to feed into guidance of what is happening. This is a big issue as this group of people are more likely to be exposed to Covid due to the jobs that they do. There is encouragement for members to have assessments, i.e. some men have religious reasons to have a beard, this can cause issues with ill-fitting face masks, therefore these need to be assessed and adjustments made for properly fitted masks.
- Pay – there has been an agreement for a pay rise for public health workers but not for dietitians as they are tied into a pay deal that is due to expire in 04/2021. Unions are looking to put in a pay request for one of three options (a £2000 bulk payment, or a 3.5% pay rise, or a 5% pay rise), a decision is being discussed to request a part bulk payment and part pay rise.

SA will send out a presentation of the new sickness absence management "Our Big Conversation". The idea of this is to promote a rapid option to resolve this.

SA

51/14

Partnerships – Jo Lewis

JL presented insights into the challenges and expectations from the partnership strategies. There is a new policy due to be published in August 2020 in Dietetics Today and on the website.

BDA app library was discussed. There are many apps which will be available on the library, there is a plan for these to be reviewed over time by dietitians, with the outcome to be dietitian preferred apps.

A new briefing paper is to be released shortly regarding the BDA and companies who produce breastmilk substitutes. No sponsorship will be accepted from the companies by the BDA for events etc although they will still be allowed to be e.g. corporate members. The document is to help paediatric dietitians to be able to access BDA CPD and to work alongside the Baby Friendly Initiative guidance. HN asked if there was an opportunity for feedback for this document as she reports that there are dietitians who are not members due to this policy. She is concerned that there are non-members who will not have sight on this policy more so, in the Public Health group – people who perhaps never joined the BDA because of their stance on commercial sponsorship. There was discussion that some members find themselves with work policies in conflict with BDA policies.

51/15

AOB

The Obesity strategy is to be released later this week. Indications are that it may have a bias towards bariatric surgery. Plan to wait for its release prior to responding.

HW: It is thought that leadership funding i.e. money for Public Health Wales is being held back but there will be money to fund pathways.

SQ – contact Nathan if there is no information about this in a week or so.

SQ

51/16

Next Meeting

30th September 2020, 9:30 – 12:00 midday