

**Minutes of the 52 meeting of the BDA Wales Board held on Wednesday 18 November 2020 via Microsoft Teams from 09:30 – 12:00**

<b>Present:</b>	Kate Harrod-Wild (KHW)	Board Chair
	Sioned Quirke (SQ)	Board Member
	Rhiannon Williams (RW)	Board Member
	Chris Cashin (CC)	Board Member
	Helen Nicholls (HN)	Board Member
	Caroline Bovey (CB)	Board of Directors
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Sandra Tyrrell (ST)	BDA Policy Officer for Wales
	Amanda Squires (AS)	BDA Policy Officer for Wales
	Steven Austin (SA)	BDA National Employment Relations Officer

Item	<u><b>ACTION</b></u>
<b>52/1</b>	
<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>	
Apologies received from Sian O'Shea (SO) and Alice Reed (AR)	
<b>52/2</b>	
<b><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></b>	
The minutes agreed.	
<b>52/3</b>	
<b><u>Matters arising from previous minutes</u></b>	
None	
<b>52/4</b>	
<b><u>Chairman's Update</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two applications were received for membership of the Wales Board. Rhian Wilyeo (DA role) and Victoria Prendiville. KHW will ask WDLAG managers for suggestions of potential members of the Health Boards who aren't currently represented.</li> <li>• Deputy Chair is required to be filled by a board member – Kate will contact people individually.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KHW</b></p> <p><b>KHW</b></p>
<b>52/5</b>	
<b><u>Board of Director Update</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a full complement of Directors and Board members. Welcomed a new dietetic support worker and student member to the last meeting for the first time. There is a good mix of experience and knowledge.</li> <li>• The curriculum documents were finalised and sent out by EDPD.</li> <li>• The financial accounts are in a healthy position. Despite a drop in income due to no live events being held, there has also been little expenditure. A new Finance Director Samantha Peters, who is very experienced, is putting into place a new scrutiny plan. A corporate stress test will be carried out in due course.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	

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Continued

- There is a new strategic development plan, currently this is 3 years however, this may be changed to a 5-year plan. Blue Ocean principles of planning will be used.
- Brexit update: specific lobbying is happening for products that we use as many of them come through the European line and food safety aspect of any deals made.
- Tom Embury and Jo Lewis are working together on the BMS food policy, a minor detail was amended on the wording of the interpretation to be clearer.

52/6

### **Membership**

- Victoria Prendiville has applied to be a member of the Board, she is very experienced and known to some members of the board. The appointment will need to be sent to the board of directors for ratification. CB will email this to the board to be agreed. **CB**
- Rhian Wilyveo has sent an email of interest. The board agreed that Rhian should apply via a CV with a one sided covering letter and a two sided CV. Once received this will be circulated to the board and then forwarded to CB to be forwarded for ratification to the board of directors. ST to email Rhian. **ST**
- Kate will contact the heads of dietetics in health boards who aren't currently represented. **KHW**
- Amanda will encourage the students to apply for the student board member position as there is representative at present. Amanda will aim to ask a student and a reserve. **AS**
- Kate encouraged board members to consider the deputy role as it will be ideal if an experienced member of board could support Kate. KHW will send an email to board members to encourage someone to be a deputy chair. **KHW**
- Judyth Jenkins has stepped down as the WTAC rep. She has also stepped down from the Wales board. However, this leaves a space for the professional WTAC representative. KHW will ask Alice to circulate to WDLAG. **KHW**
- Thank you to Helen Nicholls and Judyth Jenkins for their work on the Wales board, both key members of the dietetic profession and valued.

52/7

### **Covid**

#### **i. Rehab Working Groups**

KHW will email Judyth Jenkins and Zoe Paul-Gough for an update. The rehab framework didn't have any specific nutrition goals, KHW met with Ruth Crowder and she was not minded to make any changes to the framework as it is supposed to be broad and generic. Instead she suggests we consider how to use the outcome measures that are within it. HN reports Cardiff and Vale are setting up a COVID rehab team to address long COVID. This was funded by various charity monies, clusters and health boards. **KHW**

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ii. **COVID App**

RW will be taking over leading on this from HN. This is being organised by Fiona Jenkins who is the lead DoTH, through the NHS collaborative. Dietitians are involved from every HB and a task and finish group is required. Content has been identified, but need to ensure a coordinated approach. Zoe Paul-Gough will be asking Alice Reed to ensure that this is moved forward, a team approach is required.

**52/8**      **New model of nurse training**

HN will discuss this topic with Judyth Jenkins and report back.

**HN**

**52/9**      **Welsh Government Nutrition coordinators**

HN will discuss this topic with Judyth Jenkins and report back.

**HN**

**52/10**      **Trade Union**

- Update about the latest health and safety guidance about face coverings.
- Flu Jab – there is a push to support the flu jab campaign, there is a possibility that (JCBI guidance) to start the vaccine for COVID as soon as 1 December. There is an estimation that there would be approx. 88.5 million vaccinations to do which would be a huge project. There has been discussion about who would administer the vaccinations, legislation has been pushed through quickly so that a wider number of professionals could be trained to carry out the vaccines. Dietitians fall into the second category of people who could be trained to deliver the vaccines and may be called upon. However, you cannot have the flu vaccine very close to having the COVID vaccine, therefore its important to have the flu vaccine as soon as possible.
- The COVID special leave policy and the new special leave policy have been agreed and coming into effect. There are problems for staff attending work due to isolation, particularly if children have been sent home from school to isolate. These situations don't fit into the sick leave policy and therefore special leave is required. It is unlikely that the policies will changes to address this. Long Covid is causing issues as no decision has been made about where this may fit, it is acknowledged that COVID causes fatigue and exhaustion. This is not covered by the sick leave policy or the COVID policy and often people are reducing their hours without pay. Some people who are able to prove that they acquired COVID at work are encouraged to go to a solicitor and down the route of injury at work claim to help to compensate for financial losses.
- The Recruit and Retention Retainment policy was approved last week.

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- The government treasury proposed a capping on exit payments from public service. This was proposed in 2013 but not implemented at the time. This has now come into effect. This will affect people leaving with large pension pots and redundancies. This could affect a salary as low as £19,000.
- Process of raising concerns or grievance will be addressed with a new policy for Rapid Intervention. The idea is that if there is an issue then this is dealt with quickly before the relationship is too far damaged. Resolution to take place earlier. Wales is leading the way on this type of policies.
- Track and trace centres are being set up all over Wales, as time progresses these will be used for administering vaccinations.
- Anti-social media - it was reported that employers are monitoring social media. In particular with reports about the current crisis and people commenting on this. Now there is a warning that they will act on it. There are cases at the moment of people who have breached social media rules. This is particularly wrong if you are representing yourself as an employee of the NHS. This can be on social media sites such as Facebook, however, it can be communication such as group work messages using WhatsApp for example. Also, if emails are sent using the employer's computer systems, these can be read and monitored by IT. CB pointed out that the BDA have excellent information and courses about working with social media and guidance on using social media.
- No decisions yet on a pay deal, expected to be April 2021. SA will keep us posted.
- TU training courses are being run virtually. Wales needs some more TU reps. On 2 December SA will be running an update virtually with the current reps.
- The Wales Social Partnership is due to have a new lead CEO as Tracy Mayhill is retiring. Once this has been decided SA will update the board.
- Further notes will be sent out by ST.

52/11

## **AOB**

### **Student training update**

- AS thanked all of the dietitians across Wales for successfully completing the first placement during COVID. The reports back from the students was that the training was very good.

- 53 students have been recruited for this cohort, didn't meet the 60 target that was the goal. Placement 3 is due out shortly. There are staffing shortages at Cardiff Met University, these posts have now been recruited to. HEIW have requested that tenders are completed for the next courses, 42 spaces in South Wales and 18 in North Wales. Ideally preference would be that placements 'pool' would be kept fluid for allocation of placements. There are concerns that the divide in the spaces doesn't reflect what has been requested by the Health Boards. HEIW proposed the number split. AS did report that from student feedback, they report that the lower interest in studying in Wales with the bursary fund is due to the 2 year tie-in to working in Wales. Some students have opted not to take a bursary place and self-fund. There was concern that HEIW has not consulted the BDA about splitting the training of the courses in North and South Wales. Tenders are out at the moment for educators.
- Students will be provided with PPE from May 2021. They will be provided with uniform and headsets, this will be provided by the university.
- Discussions about placements and how these may change in the future. There was discussion that some professionals are opting out of training, despite it being in their job description which is putting a strain on individuals who are willing to deliver training.

**ST discussion: -**

- Speech and Language Wales Policy Officer asking if any other profession is experiencing any problems or queries with PPE. Most work is remote; however, some paediatric dietitians are going into schools, these dietitians will follow the health board compliance unless the guidance is higher in the school. Access to PPE is more readily available, the dietitians provide their own PPE and they have clear guidance of how to use this. CB reports that the BDA continue to lobby with other professional bodies on PPE requirements for aerosol generating activities, for example, passing an NG tube isn't recognised in the PPE guidance.
- Professional bodies meeting at the end of the month with Ruth Crowder. Tom Embury will be attending to represent the Wales Board. Is there any feedback or questions for Ruth from the board members? ST to send an email to the board members and to Alice Reed to disseminate via WDLAG to collate feedback. Communication to be improved for discussion and feedback. **ST**
- Encouragement for representatives to come along and respond to asks, and managers to encourage staff.
- Policy Officer Group meetings – working on Manifesto work. One upcoming with Vaughan Gething at the end of the month. Discussion about what asks to bring to his attention. ST to email the board members and WDLAG following the meeting if required for more information. Also, to contact HN for more information about the diabetes prevention pathway if this is a suitable forum for discussion. **ST**

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- Positif Politics offer a service for support for AHP colleagues, this is involves a fee of £2500+VAT (per annum) for a dietetic specific updates or £400+VAT (per annum) for a daily update which isn't specific. It was decided the £2500+VAT session would be the better option for us due to the support that it can offer and the use that it would be useful. ST to contact Andy Burman to see how it is best to proceed to apply for this, whether it would be better to put in as a business case as a one of or whether it should be as put in as budget setting.

ST

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**AS discussion: -**

- Would the Wales Board like other members of the BDA to present at Board meetings? It was agreed that this would be helpful to the group. AS will feedback to Tom Embury to request this.

AS

**HN discussion: -**

- There is a pre-diabetes pathway which has been developed for Wales. This has been presented at the Cross-Party group last week where six AMs were present. They will be writing to the Health Minister to support this. They have also asked for this to be an independent member debate in the Senedd. HN is having discussions with the government but any opportunity to promote this would be important. A technical appraisal on supporting the use of preventable in pre-diabetes.
- All health boards have been awarded money to implement the Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales strategy. HN is presenting at a meeting tomorrow for the WTAC board. The presentation will be to show the plans for implementation of the obesity pathway.
- Funding has now been agreed by all health boards from the Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales monies to digitalise the Nutrition Skills for Life courses. The tenders are due to go out shortly.

**CC discussion: -**

- The South Wales Board meeting on 16 December will take place as an awards ceremony. Dietitians or departments to be nominated.

52/12

**Next Meeting**

TBC