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Powys Teaching
Health Board

POWYS TEACHING HEALTH BOARD

SUMMARY OF THE EXPERIENCE, QUALITY & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2020

Committee Meetings of Powys Teaching Health Board are meetings held in public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. However, the COVID-19 Public Health emergency and the associated instruction to Stay At Home has meant that Board resolved to hold the Experience Quality and Safety Committee on 16th April 2020 virtually and in private with a summary of the proceedings made available within a week of the meeting.

Present:

Melanie Davies	Vice-Chair (Committee Chair)
Trish Buchan	Independent Member (Committee Vice-Chair)
Vivienne Harpwood	PTHB Chair
Owen James	Independent Member
Frances Gerrard	Independent Member

In Attendance:

Carol Shillabeer	Chief Executive
Alison Davies	Director of Nursing and Midwifery
Julie Rowles	Director of Workforce, OD and Support Services
Stuart Bourne	Director of Public Health
Wyn Parry	Medical Director
Claire Madsen	Director of Therapies and Health Sciences
Rani Mallison	Board Secretary

Apologies for absence:

Susan Newport	Independent member
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Committee Support:

Stella Parry	Committee Secretary
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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OVERVIEW

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the development regarding COVID-19 to the Committee. It was reported that there had been a need to reprioritise, plan, prepare and implement. A 5 point plan had been approved by the Board on 25 March 2020. The health board would be addressing key outstanding areas and the risks held. Some of the key areas of risks were highlighted to the Committee and would be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

NON-COVID-19 ACITIVITY

The Chief Executive reported that the initial duration of the COVID-19 period had been estimated at 6 weeks, this had been adjusted to a longer period likely to last several months. A report has been commissioned to develop mechanisms for planned and non-urgent care. An assessment would be made of areas in which short term actions are required to avoid possible harm and recommendations for action would be developed including management arrangements.

STAFFING OF THE CLINICAL RESPONSE MODEL

The Director of Nursing presented a paper and requested that the Committee:

- Ratify the approach being taken to staff the clinical response model
- Note Welsh Government's position in relation to the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016
- Ratify the recommendation that the Annual Report due in May 2020 as a requirement of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016, is indefinitely postponed.

The Committee RATIFIED the approach being taken to staff the clinical response model and the recommendation that the annual report due in May 2020 as a requirement of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016, is indefinitely postponed.

The Chief Executive NOTED that both areas would be kept under review.

PPE ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Public Health reported that work had been undertaken regarding stock, supply chain management, distribution and strategic and governance arrangements for PPE. A Centralised Hub had been implemented in Bronllys for PTHB.

Supplies were being provided on a continuous basis to the 6 main sites in Powys (including 10 wards) as well as MIU's, midwives, mental health, district nurses and X-Ray radiography departments. A generic PTHB COVID-19 email account has been established and any requests for PPE outside of the aforementioned areas are handled by this account accordingly.

The Strategy for PPE includes the following 3 areas:

- Reduction in demand (sessional use, bundling of care)
- Rational and appropriate use in line with national IPC guidance
- Co-ordination of supply chain

It was reported that the Military had been supporting PTHB on logistics and a weekly PPE co-ordination group had been developed with a provider focus. A virtual PPE team had also been developed.

The Director of Public Health advised that Public Health bodies in the UK had confirmed sustained community transmission in the previous week which had implications for the use of PPE. The Committee was assured that PPE continues to be a focused area of work.

STAFF WELLBEING & SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Workforce and OD provided a presentation regarding Staff Wellbeing and noted that the current period is a testing and uncertain period for staff.

The presentation provided a summary of:

- Support arrangements in place:
 - Daily bulletin
 - Silvercloud available without referral
 - Regular meetings with Trade Unions
 - Occupational Health Wellbeing Hub
- Support arrangements under development:
 - Links with the Citizens Advice Bureau
 - Expanding counselling provision
 - Short surveys
 - Charitable Funds support

The Vice Chair noted the activities of the work stream and expressed that thanks be passed to all staff on behalf of the Committee.

Owen James raised that the Charitable Fund had identified potential to add value through support. The Committee welcomed the confirmation that the Charitable Funds Manager had commenced in post.

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

The Medical Director reported to the Committee that the Ethical Framework had been published and had been adopted by all Ethical Committees in Wales. It was agreed that the Medical Director would circulate the framework post-Committee to Independent Members for information.

CLINICAL DECISION MAKING

The Medical Director provided an update and noted that the 3 core principles of the framework would be underlined by what care would be provided in Powys, how it would be provided and how it would be provided safely.

It was suggested that the role of Powys would be to support and provide step-down care to COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients. The challenge would be defining those patients who are to receive care within the PTHB Community Hospitals.

All principles in the framework had been based on the Ethical Framework and the Medical Director expressed that equity of care must be carefully considered. It was noted that supporting the rehabilitation of patients is a strength in Powys and the health board should remain fluid on the type of patients that are cared for within its community hospitals.

The Chief Executive raised that work was ongoing into the Clinical Decision Making to ensure risks are mitigated without compromising the level of care provided. It was noted as essential that the pathway, risks and monitoring had been appropriately assessed.

It was AGREED that when the Clinical Decision Making had been approved by the Gold Command Group an update would be provided to the next available Board Briefing.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chief Executive provided the following update regarding the CQC review into SaTH:

- The report has suggested an overall rating of inadequate
- Inadequacies had been identified in a range of areas including caring and safety
- SaTH continues to be in special measures
- PTHB remained committed to holding Executive to Executive meetings during the COVID-19 period.

It was AGREED that a more in-depth discussion would be held by the Committee on 4th June 2020.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

4th June 2020