

Dyddiad: 17 Ebrill 2002

Lleoliad: Ystafell Bwyllgora 3, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Teitl: Ymateb i Ymgynghoriad ar *Getting Ahead Of The Curve* - Strategaeth Clefydau Heintus i Loegr

Pwrpas

1. Rhoi'r manylion diweddaraf i aelodau'r pwyllgor ar y papur i'w nodi a gyflwynwyd i'r pwyllgor ar 27 Chwefror a'u hysbysu o'r ymateb, yng Nghymru, i'r ddogfen ymgynghori uchod.

Crynodeb

2. Gwahoddir y pwyllgor i nodi'r papur a'r camau gweithredu a ddisgrifir isod.

3. Nododd y ddogfen ymgynghori [*Getting Ahead of the Curve*](#) - *A Strategy for combating infectious diseases* y rhesymeg y tu ôl i'r strategaeth a'i chyfeiriad yn fras. Roedd y ddogfen yn cyhoeddi sefydlu Asiantaeth Diogelu Iechyd a rhoddod restr o'r swyddogaethau a ddisgrifir gan yr Asiantaeth honno. Mae pob ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad wedi rhoi cefnogaeth yn fras i'r ymagwedd y mae strategaeth *Getting Ahead of the Curve* yn ei nodi a'r proffil uwch a'r cynhwysiant sy'n cael ei roi i ddiogelu iechyd. Mae'r holl ymatebwyr wedi codi nifer o gwestiynau am systemau a'r strwythurau'r Asiantaeth newydd - sut y bydd yn gweithredu mewn gwirionedd yng Nghymru a Lloegr. Mae'r holl ymatebwyr wedi gofyn i Gymru fod yn bartner cyfartal yn yr Asiantaeth a'i bod yn adeiladu ar y nifer o bethau a gyflawnwyd yng Nghymru, gan sicrhau ein bod yn cynnal gwasanaethau da ac effeithiol.

Ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad

4. Anfonwyd dau gan copi o'r ddogfen *Getting Ahead of the Curve* i amrywiaeth o unigolion a sefydliadau a allai fod â diddordeb mewn diogelu iechyd. Cafwyd 23 o ymatebion ysgrifenedig. Mae crynodeb o'r sylwadau a gafwyd wedi'u hamgáu yn Atodiad A.

5. Mae'n amlwg bod y sefyllfa yng Nghymru yn wahanol i'r un yn Lloegr, gyda systemau, strwythurau a dulliau gweithredu gwahanol. Mae rhywfaint o amrywiaeth barn mewn perthynas â'r gwasanaethau

labordai ynghylch materion cyllido a datblygu labordai'r GIG, ond mae bron pawb yn cytuno bod y rhwydwaith a reolir gan y PHLS yng Nghymru yn wasanaeth rhagorol sydd wedi dod â chlod a chynnydd mewn gwasanaethau microbiolegol i Gymru.

Camau Gweithredu Arfaethedig

6. Mae'r Adran Iechyd wedi sefydlu Tîm Gweithredu Asiantaeth Diogelu Iechyd i reoli'r prosiect o weithredu'r Asiantaeth newydd gyda llifau gwaith penodol a gweithgareddau a nodwyd i ddarparu cynllun prosiect manwl.

7. Mae swyddogion y Cynulliad wedi bod yn gweithio'n agos gyda thîm prosiect yr Adran Iechyd i adeiladu ar ein dealltwriaeth o'r hyn a gynigiwyd a sut yr effeithir ar fuddiannau Cymru. Mae'r Adran Iechyd ar y trywydd o hyd gyda chynlluniau i gyhoeddi Gorchymyn Diwygio Rheoliadol (RRO) drafft ar gyfer ymgynghoriad cyn yr haf er mwyn creu'r asiantaeth newydd o'r rhannau hanfodol a nodir yn *Getting Ahead of the Curve*. Mae'r swyddogion yn gweithio i sefydlu sefyllfa'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru, a bydd yn rhaid adlewyrchu hyn yn yr RRO drafft a'r papur ymgynghori sy'n cydfynd ag ef.

8. Yn ôl ein dealltwriaeth o'r Rheolau Sefydlog bydd angen pleidlais yn y cyfarfod llawn i gael cydsyddiad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i'r RRO arfaethedig. Rydym yn trafod gyda'r Adran Iechyd ymhle yn yr amserlen y byddai hyn yn briodol ac ymddengys mai yn union cyn yr aiff i'r Pwyllgor Seneddol y bydd hyn, yn ôl pob tebyg ym mis Hydref 2002. Nod yr Adran Iechyd yw cyhoeddi papur ymgynghori ym mis Mehefin ac, yn amodol ar ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad, gosod cynnig am orchymyn ac RRO drafft gerbron y Senedd i'w graffu am y tro cyntaf ym mis Tachwedd. Byddai hyn yn galluogi'r pwyllgorau craffu seneddol i gyflwyno eu hadroddiadau yn gynnar yn 2003, gyda golwg ar y gorchymyn yn dod i rym a sefydlu'r Asiantaeth newydd o 1 Ebrill 2003. Mae'r Adran Iechyd yn cydnabod y bydd cyrraedd y dyddiad tared yn dibynnu ar y gallu i fodloni'r pwyllgorau eu bod wedi rhoi sylw i bob mater a godwyd gan y cynnig.

9. Wrth gwrs hysbysir y pwyllgor o'r datblygiadau wrth iddynt ddigwydd.

Jane Hutt

Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Atodiad A

Responses to the consultation

Précis of specific comments:

The comments below are constructed from the individual responses gained. The main thrust of the comments has been included, with the detail left out.

The Vice Chair Welsh Nursing & Midwifery Committee

Senior Nurse Cardiff LHG - Concern that the strategy is simply for England whilst at the same time setting out a proposed action that affects Wales without consultation and appearing not to have taken into account the differences caused as a result of devolution. The report is timely, the proposed action steps seem appropriate and are to be welcomed. The variation in the use of figures suggest that what is needed is an all UK picture.

Director of Public Health Iechyd Morgannwg Health Authority:

Wales should build on the very many achievements it has made in the communicable disease control field rather than remodel to fit a solution constructed to deal with a different set of issues elsewhere

Wales Office of Research & Development:

There is no indication of how:

- Wales will be able to influence the R & D programme.
- Wales will be able to pursue its own R & D programme in this area.

Medical Director, Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust

It is important to emphasise that this will not be achieved without support for the development of core services in the hospital sector (Nursing and Ancillary staff) and investment in the Infection Control Teams.

Association of Welsh Community Health Councils

The Association welcomes the report and its recognition of the threats and hazards posed to the public as we enter the 21st Century.

Bro Taf Health Authority

The NAFW will wish to utilise the Health Protection Agency for its National (UK) Functions.

Clear benefits in bringing together expertise at a national level:

- Wales must contribute fully to the development of strategy and policy, to the development of surveillance systems and on responses to new or emerging threats.
- Wales must be represented on all advisory groups so that issues pertinent to Wales can be considered at an early stage.

University of Wales College of Medicine

The College welcomes the report and the increased profile that it will give to the whole area of infection

and communicable disease.

The integration of different aspects of Health Protection will benefit public health activities in Wales.

It is essential to ensure the integration of all aspects of medicine that contribute to the diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention of infection; there is a concern that there is a potential imbalance in the emphasis within the report.

The college would hope that the benefits achieved by having a clinical microbiology network that is currently managed by the PHLS will not be lost and that a suitable home can be found to maintain the integrated service within the Public Health Services in Wales.

North West Wales NHS Trust

Welcome the creation of the Health Protection Agency and agree in general with proposed functions.

Support for the formal recognition given to the public health responsibilities of NHS Microbiology Laboratories.

Welsh Dental Committee Member

Dental Caries not referred to whilst being the most prevalent infectious disease in the UK

Society of Directors of Public Protection Wales

Appears to take no account of local & regional developments in furtherance of the public health agenda in Wales.

Principal aims of the proposals welcomed – Providing a central agency to identify and control major public health incidents. Purpose and roll across England and Wales unclear. Concerns over the unique and effective arrangements that already exist in Wales. Impact of changes in England, which will have a direct effect on the provisions in Wales.

The Welsh Council of the Royal College of Pathologists - the representative body of all pathologists in all specialities in Wales.

The views of Council Members who are Medical Microbiologists all such Council Members are employed within the PHLS therefore some form of balance is required. I have, therefore, sought independently the views from NHS Microbiologists. Not surprisingly the views appear to split along PHLS/NHS lines and I would advise that due consideration to the minority view is given.

It is important that microbiology services in Wales must be funded on an equitable basis, with equal opportunities available to all service providers. A single strategy which combines a number of related Public Health issues makes sense, but should take account of the different approaches that will be taken in relation to the management of public health services, with the proposed establishment of a Welsh

Public Health Service and the distinct managed clinical network in Wales which encompasses 8 Welsh microbiology labs and the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre for Wales.

Iechyd Morgannwg Health Authority Local Nursing & Midwifery Committee

The formulation of a national Infection control & health protection agency is welcomed, though it is important to clarify how this will link into established local systems for managing infectious disease.

The Microbiology Standing Specialist Advisory Group

Many comments were made by members along the lines of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' However the proposed change in the management arrangements in Wales, together with the impact of the English strategy were seen as an opportunity to review & develop the relationship within Wales. There was a strong feeling for the establishment of a separate Welsh Agency for the communicable disease function organised from within Wales. It should operate in conjunction with other UK bodies with whom there should be a large measure of pursuit of similar outcomes, but in ways appropriate to the needs and organisations of Wales. There was a strong resistance to the idea of Welsh communicable disease control function being run from England. There was support for developing the laboratory network still further, paying particular attention to the perceived under-resourcing of the surveillance & reporting activities of the NHS laboratories & their staff.

PHLS in Wales

Responded with a 15-page paper that discusses organisational structures in relation to the provision of microbiology and epidemiological services that can best support the National Assembly for Wales objective to improve control of communicable diseases and enhance capacity to identify and deal with new threats to public health. It takes into account "Getting Ahead of the Curve" (Department of Health, 2002) and the consequences of the changes to take place in NHS structures in April 2003

The paper concludes by proposing that Wales, in developing its organisational structures to deal with health protection, builds on its current strengths to deliver services appropriate to the needs of its population and to meet with requirements of strategies that evolve across the UK and in Wales. Involvement with and, utilisation of the UK functions of NICHPA will be essential. Continued provision of a laboratory/surveillance network in Wales is recommended. It is suggested that this could be achieved by either negotiating its management by NICHPA or running it within a NHS organisation. The latter might accommodate a broader engagement with NHS laboratories and the wider public health community. If pursued, a close linkage to NICHPA would be required.

Gwent Consultant in Public Health Medicine/Immunisation Co-ordinator

Welcomes the creation of the HPA, which covers the wider health protection agenda, and agrees in general with its proposed functions. Also supports the formal recognition given to the public health responsibilities of NHS Microbiology laboratories. Clear lines of managerial & professional accountability will be necessary for those responsible for the delivery of the health protection functions, whether based in the HPA, the NHA (including Local health boards) or other organisations. To ensure the successful delivery of health protection services in the future, it might be appropriate for public

health practitioners in LHB, CCDC's/Field Officers and their Teams, the PHLS in Wales, and the Wales arm of the HPA to be part of an All Wales Public health Service. Administrative, secretarial and media relations support that can be quickly mobilised during and outside of office hours is also needed.