

Cafodd yr ymateb hwn ei gyflwyno i'r ymgynghoriad ar y cyd a gynhelir gan [y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol](#) a'r [Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus](#) fel sail i'w [gwaith craffu ar Iechyd a Gofal Digidol Cymru](#)

This response was submitted to the joint consultation held by the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) and the [Public Accounts and Public Administration Committees](#) to inform their [scrutiny of Digital Health and Care Wales](#)

SDHCW 20

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Addysg a Gwellu Iechyd Cymru | Health Education and Improvement Wales





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Date: 23 September 2022

Health and Social Care Committee, Welsh Parliament
SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation: Scrutiny of Digital Health and Care Wales

In preparation for the joint scrutiny session of DHCW to be held by the Health and Social Care Committee and the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee, Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) wish to contribute the following response.

HEIW was formally launched as a statutory body on 1 October 2018, with a statutory Board consisting of a Chair, Chief Executive, six Independent Members and four Executive Directors. HEIW is the strategic workforce body for NHS Wales, and the first SHA. HEIW has matured significantly over its formative years, and therefore we can relate to the DHCW journey from a new organisation to a maturing one and recognise the significant effort required to establish a new organisation, build new cultures and governance so it can add value to the NHS in Wales. This level of maturity does not happen in a year, it takes time to evolve, it seems however that DHCW are making the right steps to achieving this.

The partnership approach between HEIW and DHCW has started well and continues to mature. The relationship has been strengthened by Board to Board session and the attendance of, Alex Howells (CEO) and Chris Jones (chair) to a DHCW board session to share relevant experience and learning of setting up a new SHA, this was met with enthusiasm and openness by the DHCW Board. The Executive Teams from DHCW and HEIW meet on a regular basis to progress common strategic work programmes and explore collective leadership opportunities across the NHS. One of those new and growing areas being the increasing strategic importance of workforce data, culture and workforce issues in large scale digital transformation programmes.

Representatives of the HEIW Executive team joined the DHCW AGM this year and the work programme and achievements in their first year were recognised. It was evident from the presentation that DHCW have invested in their governance and accountability and achieved many successes and awards. The AGM was a positive interactive session that held the organisation open to scrutiny, this could be said to contrast with the experience of its predecessor organisations.

In October 2020, the ten-year national *Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care* <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/workforce-strategy/> was endorsed and published by Welsh Government. The strategy enables the delivery of *A Healthier Wales* and is part of the NHS Wales planning system alongside the *National Clinical Framework* and the *Quality Framework*. It forms the basis for our partnership work with Social Care Wales and other NHS Organisations. One of the strategic ambitions set out in it is, by 2030, the digital and technological capabilities of the workforce will be well developed and in widespread use to optimise the way we work, to help us deliver the best possible care for people. It is recognised to achieve this ambition close partnership working with DHCW is important.

HEIW will work to ensure digital readiness of the wider NHS organisations and DHCW will develop the digital profession. Both elements will be equally important to achieving a digital ready and sustainable workforce that can maximise the digital opportunity to transform service delivery. We have made good progress in relation to these ambitions and will continue over the next few years to deliver improvements.

HEIW look forward to continuing to work in partnership with DHCW and together exploring the impact of technology on the workforce and the service delivery challenges faced by the NHS.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ruth Hall
Vice-Chair

