

WALES SCREENING COMMITTEE
5 November 2020
14:00 – 15:00
AGENDA

No.	Item	Owner
1	Welcome, apologies and introductions	Chair
2	Minutes, Actions and matters arising from meeting held on 21 July 2021	Chair
3	Maternal and Child Screening Update	<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 1
4	Update on the reinstatement of Screening Programmes	<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 2
5	Uptake of screening	<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 1
6	Cervical Screening	<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 3
7	Healthcare Inspectorate Wales Local Review of Breast Test Wales	<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 2
8	AOB	Chair
9	Dates of Future Meetings	Chair

Dates of Future Meetings

UK National Screening Committee

24 February 2021

25 June 2021

27 October 2021

2021 Wales Screening Committee

TBA

Wales Screening Committee Meeting (WSC)
5 November 2020
14:00 – 15:00
Via Skype

Members in attendance

<redacted s40(2)> WG Officer Chair
<redacted s40(2)> BCUHB Officer 1
<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 2
<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 3
<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 1
<redacted s40(2)> CHC Officer 1
<redacted s40(2)> C&VUHB Officer 1
<redacted s40(2)> WG Officer 2
<redacted s40(2)> WG Officer 3
<redacted s40(2)> Public Member 1
<redacted s40(2)> SBUHB Officer 1
<redacted s40(2)> WG Officer 5

1 Welcome, apologies and introductions

Apologies were noted from <redacted s40(2)> WG Officer 1, <redacted s40(2)> WG Officer 6, <redacted s40(2)> CTMUHB Officer 4, <redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 9, <redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 10 and <redacted s40(2)> PTUHB Officer 1.

2 Actions from meeting held on 21 July 2020

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting. All actions were noted as completed, in progress or to be discussed on the agenda with the exception of action 5. It was noted that PHW had not completed a template for action 4 as no significant service change was planned.

<redacted s40(2)>

3 Maternal and child screening update

<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 1 updated the committee on the maternal and child programmes. All programmes were running well. The availability of screening venues remains an issue for the Newborn Hearing Programme which is causing a backlog in some areas. The programme is working with audiologists to address but capacity is an issue. Parents are being provided with information on signs of hearing

impairment and who to contact if they have concerns. Newborn Bloodspot screening coverage is above average and avoidable repeats have decreased. Screening is still permitted on day 4 of life with no issues reported. The committee agreed this should be formalised post-Covid.

Action 1: <redacted s40(2)> CHC Officer 1 to share CHC report on maternity services with committee.

4 Update on the reinstatement of the screening programmes

<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 2 presented a paper on the reinstatement of the screening programmes that were paused in March. A risk based approach has been taken to reinstating the programmes. CSW restarted in June by inviting women on early repeat pathway and is now inviting women for routine appointments. The programme is reviewing feedback from primary care on a monthly basis. BSW restarted in August in a phased manner due to endoscopy capacity. Backlogs in endoscopy have been variable across health boards. Uptake is now back to pre-Covid levels. BTW restarted in August with high-risk women and is now inviting women for routine screening. Mobile units have been back in operation since mid-October but the programme is now operating at reduced appointment times to manage reduced capacity. Backlog is reducing. Devolved Administrations are sharing ideas to reduce backlog. AAA restarted with men on high-risk surveillance from August and is now inviting men for routine screens. Uptake is good but venue availability remains an issue. DESW restarted in September with those who are at higher risk of retinopathy. The programme is currently seeing fewer people due to venue availability. DESW has explored working with optometry services and alternative venue solutions. Covid secure pathways are now established so the programmes will continue screening if possible to do so.

5 Uptake of screening

<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 1 presented a paper on screening uptake. PHW had a good understanding of those who were less likely to attend and the barriers to access before Covid but now this was less clear. Do Not Attend (DNAs) were variable across the programmes and have a greater impact due to the limited capacity. Information on screening has been updated to include Covid safety measures. <redacted s40(2)> WG Officer 2 updated the committee that the Welsh Government guidance on attending health services during lockdown had been amended to specify screening.

6 Cervical Screening

<redacted s40(2)> PHW Officer 2 introduced a proposal which would allow CSW to introduce a pilot initiative for self-sampling in Wales.

The UKNSC had considered the self-sampling issue and concluded that more evidence of practicality and clinical validation was required before proceeding, and that could only happen once HPV testing was offered as a primary screen in England. Plans were underway for local pilots in England to begin in December and focus on the clinical validation of self versus clinician taken samples. The Wales pilot, which would begin in summer/autumn 2021, would focus on feasibility, acceptability and the impact on the CSW programme. The WSC agreed that planning for the pilot should commence and that the Minister for H&SS should be informed of the proposal.

Action 2: Secretariat to update the Minister on proposals for self-sampling pilot.

<redacted s40(2)> WG Officer 5 drew the committee's attention to correspondence he had received from GPC Wales about primary care's ability, under the current Covid-19 restrictions, to undertake cervical cytology in Wales. He had responded to the GPC's concerns by stating that cervical cytology remained an important priority and that a difficult balance needed to be struck between managing the current demand and the less overt non- Covid harms. He was also concerned that further delays in cytology might negatively impact screening rates in future years. He promised to keep the committee informed of any further developments.

7 Healthcare inspectorate Wales local review of Breast Test Wales

The Committee noted the recent publication of Health Inspectorate Wales' local review of Breast Screening Services within Public Health Wales.

8 AOB

No business was raised.

9 Date of next meeting

To be confirmed