

Cross-Party Group on Lung Health

Grŵp Trawsbleidiol ar Iechyd yr Ysgyfaint

Minutes from 10 May 2022

Attendees

MSs

Mike Hedges MS (and supported by Ryland Doyle)

David Rees MS

John Griffiths MS (represented by Andrew Betteridge)

Jane Dodds MS (represented by Rhys Taylor)

Carolyn Thomas MS (represented by Dan Rose)

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS (represented by Heledd Roberts)

Huw Irranca-Davies MS (represented by Harry Davies)

Non MSs

Joseph Carter - Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Wales

Stephanie Woodland - Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Wales

Andrew Cumella

Alice Spencer

Anthony Davies

Brian Forbes

Hannah Bray

Chrissie Gallimore

Claire Hurlin

Dave Edwards

Deborah Fossett

Fiona Jenkins

Gareth Williams

Jane Douglas

Jeannie Wyatt-Williams

Jerome Donagh

Joanne Allen

John Morgan

Jonathan Morgan

Katie Pink

Kathryn Singh

Kimberley Lewis

Melanie Barker

Neil Harris

Pam Lloyd

Ruth Evans

Sadie Beard

Sarah Cadell

Val Maidment

Apologies

Natasha Asghar MS
Hefin David MS
Jane Dodds MS
Tom Giffard MS
Llŷr Gruffydd MS
John Griffiths MS
Sian Gwenllian MS
Altaf Hussein MS
Delyth Jewell MS
Samuel Kurtz MS
Rhys ab Owen MS
Jack Sargeant MS
Ken Skates MS
Buffy Williams MS
Sioned Williams MS

1. Mike Hedges MS - Welcome and introductions

Mike Hedges MS started the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He explained that John Griffiths MS wasn't able to attend so had asked him to step in. He asked if any MSs or support staff wanted to introduce themselves. **David Rees MS** introduced himself and support staff representing the other MSs introduced themselves.

Mike Hedges MS explained that there were two presenters today, **Andrew Cumella** and **Dr Katie Pink**.

He encouraged people to put any questions they had in the chat.

2. Mike Hedges MS - Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes could not be approved as none of the MSs present were at the last meeting.

Action - minutes to be approved outside of the meeting.

* Following the meeting the February minutes were approved by John Griffiths MS and Darren Millar MS

3. Joseph Carter - Matters arising

The following actions had been agreed at the previous meeting

- **Joseph Carter** to draft letter for John Griffiths MS to send to the Minister
 - Completed - no response yet

- 4. **Andrew Cumella, Asthma + Lung UK Cymru - Results of the Annual asthma survey**

This is the 9th edition of the Annual Asthma Survey, formerly run by Asthma UK.

Asthma + Lung UK have asked some questions repeatedly across these surveys, and we add in new ones each year to track what care people with asthma are receiving, and how asthma impacts upon their lives.

In 2021, there were 8,300 respondents in the UK, including 494 in Wales.

The survey tracked key outcomes for people with asthma, including the basic care measure:

- Having an annual asthma review (either in person or virtual)
- Having an inhaler technique check
- Having a written asthma action plan

The data showed that whilst basic care levels are falling in all 4 nations, it is worse in Wales with only 26% of people received all aspects - the lowest since 2014. The breakdown by Health Board shows Powys being the best with 42.9% of people receiving it and Swansea Bay being the worse at 18.9%.

When asked do you think your asthma care is getting worse Wales had the highest levels of people saying it was getting worse and the lowest levels of people saying it was getting better - 45.9% saying it was getting worse and 10% saying it was getting better.

The survey showed that that people living in the most polluted parts of Wales had the most uncontrolled asthma, whilst 73.6% in Wales thought air pollution has an impact on their health, and 67.2% in Wales worried about the impact of climate change on their asthma.

Andrew Cumella concluded his presentation by calling for:

- Publishing of a new Lung Health Quality Statement with an implementation plan
- Renewed effort to improve basic asthma care
- Particularly target those with poorly controlled asthma
- Reduce the reliance on reliever inhalers
- Faster diagnosis
- Roll out and marketing of the NHS Wales asthma app
- Lung health to be a priority in health inequalities

Mike Hedges MS thanked **Andrew** for his presentation and invited questions.

Val Maidment talked about her experience of having asthma for over 40 years but didn't get a proper asthma review until 2020. She asked for an asthma action plan and was told they were 'in the cupboard' and the nurse was surprised she wanted one.

Val praised the NHS Wales asthma app for controlling her asthma, but said she learnt about it via Asthma + Lung UK rather than through the NHS,

Fiona Jenkins asked about whether Asthma + Lung UK Cymru could offer any advice about evaluating the impact of the asthma or asthma in children apps.

Andrew said that Asthma + Lung UK Cymru do a lot of work with researchers helping with evaluations so he asked whether it might be something they could help with.

Mike Hedges MS asked whether local authorities could be doing more to promote the Asthma for Parents app through schools. Andrew and Fiona agreed this would be a very good idea.

Action - Asthma + Lung UK Cymru to consider how they could help with evaluating the apps.

5. **Dr Katie Pink** - Asthma in Wales

Her presentation focussed on how we standardise asthma treatment and care across Wales.

Key objectives

- Every patient with asthma has clear evidence of the disease
- Every patient with asthma has a personalised asthma action plan
- People with severe asthma are provided with access to more novel, specialist asthma therapies
- Reduce the environmental impact of inhaler prescribing

The Welsh model

- National guidelines
- Standards and education
- Quality improvement projects
- Patient self-management apps

The asthma hub

- Freely accessible to adults with asthma in Wales
- Enhancing the values and techniques of chronic disease self-management
- Supporting patients to stay well using a monthly asthma checker

- Empowering patients to drive standards of care during any healthcare interactions they have

NHS Wales respiratory toolkit

- A toolkit for healthcare professionals who want to learn more about diagnosis and management of asthma
- Focusing on everyone knowing, learning, and doing the things that really matter
- Co-produced by local and international experts
- Accessed daily by hundreds of healthcare professionals across Wales
- Sign up for free to the All Wales ICST Platform allwales.icst.org.uk

NHS Wales Green agenda

- Guidelines updated to show which inhalers have higher and lower global warming potential
- Patient-facing campaign - how eco-friendly are your inhalers?
- Event for HCPs to help to tackle the climate crisis through sustainable inhaler prescribing

Asthma biologic therapy

- In recent years, there has been an explosion of novel therapies for the management of severe asthma
- Often described as 'steroid sparing', these drugs can vastly improve asthma control, reduce exacerbations, hospitalisations and improve quality of life
- Value based prescribing programme
- Encourage referrals into secondary care for suspected severe asthma
- All health boards to fund a severe asthma service, including a dedicated asthma nurse

What support do we need?

- Increased awareness of the Asthma toolkit, with alignment and endorsement within your area of influence
- Facilitating the sharing of physical and digital resources, including national prescribing guidelines, leaflets, posters, and tutorials, supported by ICST
- Utilising all communication channels available to respiratory patients in Wales
- Encouraging all health boards to establish a severe asthma service

Mike Hedges MS thanked **Dr Katie Pink** for her presentation and invited questions. He went first asking does every health board have asthma nurses.

Dr Pink said that every health board had dedicated specialist respiratory nurses with some of these roles being focussed primarily on asthma.

Fiona Jenkins asked what more needs to do to communicate the apps and the pathways

Dr Pink said we need to be doing a lot more. Aside from the mass communication by email, social media, and letter, she is now working with a small number of

enthusiastic GP practices. The challenge is to engage with the GPs who see respiratory as less of a priority.

Dr Jerome Donagh asked if **Dr Pink** knew when the new paediatric asthma guidelines would come out.

Dr Pink responded that she wasn't sure exactly when but they are expected soon.

Dr Donagh asked about the future of respiratory diagnostics with primary care being unable to undertake spirometry safely.

Fiona Jenkins responded saying that most health boards were now establishing community diagnostic hubs including spirometry.

Dr Donagh said that in Cwm Taf work started to develop community hubs and then stopped.

Andrew Cumella commented on the decarbonisation agenda. He said that people with asthma generally don't know about the global warming potential of their inhalers, but our research shows that they are generally willing to switch

Dr Pink said that there is a need for an intermediate specialist nurse who would work in primary care and ideally would manage the interface with secondary care, in particular for people living with severe asthma.

Chrissie Gallimore said that ABPI companies have lots of resources to assist respiratory teams across Wales to implement the new asthma guidelines and improve asthma care.

Claire Hurlin shared the model of the mobile diagnostic hub that Hywel Dda have been trialling.

Anthony Davies asked if the apps and inhaler pathways had been presented to LMCs across Wales. **Dr Pink** did not know.

Action - Everyone is encouraged to think of ways to promote the use of the Asthma and Asthma for Parents apps

6. **Joseph Carter** - Next meeting and the work ahead

Mike Hedges MS asked **Joseph Carter** to talk about the future meetings. **Joseph** thanked everyone for their contributions and for making the time to come and confirmed that the next meeting would be on 13 September followed by 22 November.

7. **Mike Hedges MS** - Any other business

Mike Hedges MS asked if anyone had any other business. They didn't, so he thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.