CIRM10 Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diben Arbennig Ymchwiliad COVID-19 Cymru | Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee

Adroddiad Modiwl 1 Ymchwiliad Covid-19 y DU | UK-Covid Inquiry Module 1 Report

Ymateb gan Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg | Evidence from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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1. Do the recommendations in the Module 1 report capture the priority actions needed to improve the resilience and preparedness of Wales as part of the UK.

Partly

2. Is there sufficient detail in the recommendations?

No

3. Are there any clear gaps requiring the Committee to take further evidence itself?

Partly

Please outline your reasons for your answer to this question.

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words, however should it be required, an additional answer box of 500 words is available).

We welcome the overall desire to improve the status quo in relation to civil emergencies and anything that improves clarity around roles, responsibilities and streamlines processes is an important lesson to take out of the Covid 19 experience.

Overall the recommendations are almost inevitably high level so lack sufficient detail as to how they can actually be implemented at this point.

As a NHS body and as more specifically a Welsh NHS body we also need to understand what this may mean for us as an organisation and what the responses and actions to these recommendations at both a UK and Welsh level would mean for us.

From a Health perspective the NHS is mentioned 91 times in the document with public health 209 times. Lots of the references are to do with how things are currently structured but the below takeaways stood out:

a. it is repeatedly acknowledge that the NHS and Social Care constantly 'run hot' which means there is no surge capacity;

b. similarly, the NHS infrastructure is not considered fit for purpose (e.g. infection control);

c. the document acts as a good repository of previous lessons learned that Welsh Government and NHS Wales bodies may benefit from revisiting and reviewing. For example, the review of the South Korean response to MERS and also the establishment of the High Consequence of Infectious Diseases (HCID), and there has also been some modelling of 'reverse triage' – placing patients into social care;

d. the link between the Directors of Public Health (DPH)and local resilience forums are highlighted as a weakness in some areas (I assume this isn't Wales where the geography alignment is simpler) but the Committee may wish to seek clarity on this from a Welsh perspective.

e. within the cycle of exercises and policy review set out in the recommendations, the DPH should have a core role – I think the Committee, Welsh Government and the NHS Wales needs to understand how will this play out with/through PHW in Wales?

N/A

4. Your views on the resources that will be needed in order to deliver the recommendations, within the timeframes set out in the report.

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words, however should it be required, an additional answer box of 500 words is available).

Apart from Recommendations 1 and 10 it is not clear to us what the exact timeframes are for implementing these recommendations. Clearly, updating any whole systems approach will require significant resources to deliver effectively and in leading the work we think it is imperative the Cabinet Office at the UK level and the devolved governments work as collaboratively as possible in this regard to avoid any unnecessary duplication or confusion in taking these recommendations forward. There should also be a clear focus on 'future proofing' any changes to the new strategies which are developed including fully considering how technological advances including development of AI may be deployed to support governmental work in this area.

N/A

5. Your views on how progress should be monitored and reported. The need for transparency and clear lines of accountability for delivery of the recommendations.

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words, however should it be required, an additional answer box of 500 words is available).

This is clearly a matter for UK and devolved governments but clarity about whom is responsible for what and when will be absolutely crucial to ensure that there is appropriate accountability. Transparency around progress will be important given the public interest in this area. We would also expect for the UK Parliament and the devolved legislatures (including the Senedd) to play their full part in holding those responsible for delivering on these recommendations to account.

N/A

6. Do you have any other points you wish to raise within the scope of this inquiry?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words, however should it be required, an additional answer box of 500 words is available).

NO

N/A