



Cross Party Group on Lung Health

Grŵp Trawsbleidiol ar Iechyd yr Ysgyfaint

Meeting 25.11.2025

9.30am

Attendees:

MSs:

- John Griffiths MS (Chair)

Other Attendees:

- Bec Miller – Asthma + Lung UK Cymru (secretariat)
- Dave Edwards – Hywel Dda Health Board
- Esme Allen Asthma+ Lung UK Cymru
- Frankie Toner – Chiesi
- Jonathan Morgan – ASM
- Joseph Carter – Asthma + Lung UK Cymru
- Kimberley Lewis – PTHB, Therapies and Sciences
- Lou Williams – ASH Wales
- Philip Webb – 360 Ltd
- Sarah Conner – Hywel Dda UHB, Occupational Therapist
- Sarah Taylor – Member Support Staff
- Stephanie Phillips Morgan – patient volunteer
- Val Maidment - patient volunteer

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- John Griffiths MS welcomed attendees and outlined meeting etiquette.
- Attendees were asked to mute microphones and use the chat for questions.

#### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- No objections raised; minutes from May were approved.

#### 3. Matters Arising

- Bec Miller reported:

- The group had written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care regarding previous discussions.

#### 4. Presentation 1: Winter Pressures & Life for Lung Conditions Survey (Joseph Carter, Asthma + Lung UK Cymru)

##### Survey Overview:

Joseph explained that each year Asthma + Lung UK surveys supporters for across the country who live with lung conditions. This year the survey had 9,438 UK respondents; 576 from Wales.

##### Key findings:

- 7.1% in severe material deprivation; 8.9% in material deprivation.
- 25% rated general health as bad/very bad; 70% had another long-term condition.
- Loneliness linked to breathlessness; 22% often lonely.
- Basic asthma care plateaued (~33%); COPD care very low (5.6%).
- 20% used emergency/unplanned care; deprivation linked to higher admissions.
- 77% said air pollution worsens lung health; strong support for stricter action.

##### Winter Pressures:

Joseph explained that respiratory admissions are 40% higher in winter with 18,000 emergency admissions across Wales.

- COPD admissions: 3x higher in poorest areas.
- Winter Health Guide campaign reached 15.4M people; 41% of users avoided A&E, saving NHS £1.6M (estimated £88M UK-wide).
- New campaign: "We're with you all winter" – strong imagery, QR code for guide download.

##### Questions and Answers:

*Philip Webb:* Highlighted UN discussions on indoor air quality; urged coordinated action on prevention in homes, schools, and public spaces.

*Joseph Carter:* Agreed; shared concerns about indoor pollution and infant health.

*Bec Miller:* Plugged Cross-Party Group on Clean Air for ongoing discussions.

*Dave Edwards:* Raised challenges in addressing poor social housing at patient level.

*Philip Webb:* Emphasised need for trained professionals and cross-sector collaboration; poor housing costs NHS £4.08B/year UK-wide.

*Val Maidment:* Asked about implementing Wales's respiratory quality statement.

*Joseph Carter:* Concerned about lack of written implementation plan; petition ongoing.

*Philip Webb (follow-up):* Suggested inviting Rosamund Kissi-Debrah to Wales; shared London's £2.7M indoor air quality programme.

*Bec Miller:* Stressed Welsh Government has devolved powers to act; urged advocacy ahead of Senedd elections.

## 5. Presentation 2: Diagnosis of Lung Conditions (Bec Miller- Asthma + Lung UK Cymru)

Bec explained that diagnosis is the foundation for good care and reducing winter pressures.

- Misdiagnosis: ~750,000 people wrongly diagnosed with asthma UK-wide.
- Lack of targets and data transparency in Wales; quality statement exists but no implementation plan.
- Wales has worst lung disease mortality in Western Europe (3x higher than Finland).
- Economic Impact:
- Lung disease costs Wales ~£800M annually; better diagnosis could save £12M economy-wide.

Bec outlined the following solutions:

- Establish neighbourhood diagnostic hubs (spirometry, FeNO, peak flow diaries).
- Improve data collection and public reporting.
- Share best practice from pilots (Cardiff & Vale, Powys, London, Southampton).

### Questions and Answers:

- *Kimberley Lewis (Powys):* Offered support and shared that Powys Teaching Health Board already runs spirometry and diagnostic hubs across the county, including a new asthma hub offering FeNO, reversibility testing, and peak flow diary interpretation. She volunteered to help other health boards with planning or development.

## 6. Next Meeting and Work Ahead

- Bec Miller confirmed the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 9:30am where we would be looking ahead to the Senedd Election in May.
- The next meeting will be the last meeting of the CPG before the election.

## 7. Any Other Business

- No additional items raised.
- John Griffiths MS thanked all speakers and attendees and closed the meeting.