

## Schedule 5.2

### **Healthcare Professionals' Forum**

#### **Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements**

#### **1.0 Role**

- 1.0.1 The HPF's role is to provide a balanced, multi-disciplinary view of healthcare professional issues to advise the Board on local strategy and delivery. Its role does not include consideration of healthcare professional terms and conditions of service.
- 1.0.2 The HPF shall facilitate engagement and debate amongst the wide range of clinical interests within the LHB's area of activity, with the aim of reaching and presenting a cohesive and balanced healthcare professional perspective to inform the LHB's decision making.

#### **1.1 Terms of reference and operating arrangements**

- 1.1.1 The Board must set out, the relationships and accountabilities with others, as well as the National Professional Advisory Group.

#### **1.2 Membership**

- 1.2.1 The membership of the HPF reflects the structure of the seven health Statutory Professional Advisory Committees set up in accordance with Section 190 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006. Membership of the HPF shall therefore comprise the following eleven (11) members, as a minimum:

- Welsh Medical Committee
  - Primary and Community Care Medical representative
  - Mental Health Medical representative
  - Specialist and Tertiary Care medical representative
- Welsh Nursing and Midwifery Committee
  - Community Nursing and Midwifery representative
  - Hospital Nursing and Midwifery representative
- Welsh Therapies Advisory Committee
  - Therapies representative
- Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee
  - Scientific representative

- Welsh Optometric Committee
  - Optometry representative
- Welsh Dental Committee
  - Dental representative
- Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee
  - Hospital Pharmacists representative
  - Community Pharmacists representative

1.2.2 Where the Board determines it appropriate, the LHB may extend membership to other individuals in order to ensure an appropriate balance in representation amongst healthcare professional groupings and across the range of primary, community and secondary service provision.

### **1.3 Member Responsibilities and Accountability:**

#### *The Chair*

1.3.1 The Chair is responsible for the effective operation of the HPF:

- Chairing meetings;
- Establishing and ensuring adherence to the standards of good governance set for the NHS in Wales, ensuring that all business is conducted in accordance with its agreed operating arrangements; and
- Developing positive and professional relationships amongst the HPF's membership and between the HPF and the LHB's Board, and in particular its Chair, Chief Executive and clinical Directors.

1.3.2 The Chair shall work in close harmony with the Chairs of the LHB's other advisory groups, and, supported by the Board Secretary, shall ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the HPF in a timely manner with all the necessary information and advice being made available to members to inform the debate and ultimate resolutions.

1.3.3 As Chair of the HPF, they will be appointed as an Associate Member of the LHB Board. The Chair is accountable for the conduct of their role as Associate Member on the LHB Board to the Minister, through the LHB Chair. They are also accountable to the LHB Board for the conduct of business in accordance with the governance and operating framework set by the LHB.

#### *The Vice Chair*

1.3.4 The Vice-Chair shall deputise for the Chair in their absence for any reason, and will do so until either the existing chair resumes their duties or a new chair is appointed, and this deputisation includes acting in the role of Associate Member of the LHB Board.

1.3.5 The Vice Chair is accountable through the HPF Chair to the LHB Board for their

performance as Vice Chair, and to their nominating body or grouping for the way in which they represent their views at the HPF.

### Members

1.3.6 The HPF shall function as a coherent advisory group, all members being full and equal members and sharing responsibility for the decisions of the HPF.

1.3.7 All members must:

- Be prepared to engage with and contribute fully to the HPF's activities and in a manner that upholds the standards of good governance – including the values and standards of behaviour – set for the NHS in Wales;
- Comply with their terms and conditions of appointment;
- Equip themselves to fulfil the breadth of their responsibilities by participating in appropriate personal and organisational development programmes; and
- Promote the work of the HPF within the healthcare professional discipline they represent.

1.3.8 Forum members are accountable through the HPF Chair to the LHB Board for their performance as Group members, and to their nominating body or grouping for the way in which they represent the views of their body or grouping at the HPF.

## **1.4 Appointment and terms of office**

1.4.1 Appointments to the HPF shall be made by the Board, based upon nominations received from the relevant healthcare professional group, and in accordance with any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Ministers. Members shall be appointed for a period specified by the Board, but for no longer than 4 years in any one term. Those members can be reappointed but may not serve a total period of more than 8 years consecutively.

1.4.2 The **Chair** will be nominated from within the membership of the HPF, by its members, in a manner determined by the Board, subject to any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Ministers. The nomination will be subject to consideration by the Board, who must submit a recommendation on the nomination to the Minister for Health and Social Services. Their appointment as Chair will be made by the Minister, but it will not be a formal public appointment. The Constitution Regulations provide that the Welsh Ministers may appoint an Associate Member of the Board, and the appointment of the Chair to this role is on the basis of the conditions of appointment for Associate Members set out in the Regulations.

The Chair's term of office shall be for a period of up to two (2) years, with the ability to stand as Chair for an additional **term(s)**. That individual may remain in office for the remainder of their term as a member of the HPF after their term

of appointment as Chair has ended. *This amendment will cease to have effect on the 31 March 2021 or where an appointment(s) has been made in accordance with the National Health Service (Temporary Disapplication of Tenure of Office) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 amendment, at the end of that term, whichever is the latter.*

*When the above amendment no longer applies*, the Chair's term of office will be for a period of up to two (2) years, with the ability to stand as Chair for an additional one (1) year, in line with that individual's term of office as a member of the HPF. That individual may remain in office for the remainder of their term as a member of the HPF after their term of appointment as Chair has ended.

1.4.3 The **Vice Chair** will be nominated from within the membership of the HPF, by its members, in a manner determined by the Board, subject to the condition that they be appointed from a different healthcare discipline to that of the Chair, along with any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Ministers. The nomination shall be subject to consideration and appointment by the Board. The Constitution Regulations provide that the Welsh Ministers may appoint an Associate Member of the Board. In the HPF Chair's absence, the Vice Chair will also perform the role of Associate Member on the LHB Board. The appointment of the Vice Chair is therefore also on the basis of the conditions of appointment for Associate Members set out in the Regulations.

1.4.4 The Vice Chair's term of office shall be for a period of up to two (2) years, with the ability to stand as Vice Chair for additional *term(s)*, in line with that individual's term of office as a member of the SRG. That individual may remain in office for the remainder of their term as a member of the SRG after their term of appointment as Vice Chair has ended. *This amendment will cease to have effect on the 31 March 2021 or where an appointment(s) has been made in accordance with the National Health Service (Temporary Disapplication of Tenure of Office) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 amendment, at the end of that term, whichever is the latter.*

*When the above amendment no longer applies*, the Vice Chair's term of office will be for a period of up to two (2) years, with the ability to stand as Vice Chair for an additional one (1) year, in line with that individual's term of office as a member of the HPF. That individual may remain in office for the remainder of their term as a member of the HPF after their term of appointment as Vice Chair has ended.

1.4.5 A member's tenure of appointment will cease in the event that they no longer meet any of the eligibility requirements determined for the position. A member must inform the HPF Chair as soon as is reasonably practicable to do so in respect of any issue which may impact on their eligibility to hold office. The HPF Chair will advise the Board in writing of any such cases immediately.

1.4.6 The LHB will require Forum members to confirm in writing their continued eligibility on an annual basis.

## **1.5 Resignation, suspension and removal of members**

- 1.5.1 A member of the HPF may resign office at any time during the period of appointment by giving notice in writing to the HPF Chair and the Board.
- 1.5.2 If the Board, having consulted with the HPF Chair and the nominating body or group, considers that:
- It is not in the interests of the health service in the area covered by the HPF that a person should continue to hold office as a member; or
  - It is not conducive to the effective operation of the HPF
- it shall remove that person from office by giving immediate notice in writing to the person and the relevant nominating body or group.
- 1.5.3 A nominating body or group may request the removal of a member appointed to the HPF to represent their interests by writing to the Board setting out an explanation and full reasons for removal.
- 1.5.4 If a member fails to attend any meeting of the HPF for a period of six months or more, the Board may remove that person from office unless they are satisfied that:
- i) The absence was due to a reasonable cause; and
  - ii) The person will be able to attend such meetings within such period as the Board considers reasonable.
- 1.5.5 Before making a decision to remove a person from office, the Board may suspend the tenure of office of that person for a limited period (as determined by the Board) to enable it to carry out a proper investigation of the circumstances leading to the consideration of removal. Where the Board suspends any member, that member shall be advised immediately in writing of the reasons for their suspension. Any such member shall not perform any of the functions of membership during a period of suspension.

## **1.6 Relationship with the Board**

- 1.6.1 The HPF's main link with the Board is through the HPF Chair's membership of the Board as an Associate Member.
- 1.6.2 The Board may determine that designated Board members or LHB officers shall be in attendance at Advisory Group meetings. The HPF's Chair may also request the attendance of Board members or LHB officers, subject to the agreement of the LHB Chair.
- 1.6.3 The Board shall determine the arrangements for any joint meetings between the LHB Board and the HPF.
- 1.6.4 The Board's Chair shall put in place arrangements to meet with the HPF Chair on a regular basis to discuss the HPF's activities and operation.

## **1.7 Rights of Access to the LHB Board for Professional Groups**

1.7.1 The LHB Chair, on the advice of the Chief Executive and/or Board Secretary, may recommend that the Board afford direct right of access to any professional group, in the following, exceptional circumstances:

- i) Where the HPF recommends that a matter should be presented to the Board by a particular healthcare professional grouping, e.g., due to the specialist nature of the issues concerned; or
- ii) Where a healthcare professional group has demonstrated that the HPF has not afforded it due consideration in the determination of its advice to the Board on a particular issue.

1.7.2 The Board may itself determine that it wishes to seek the views of a particular healthcare professional grouping on a specific matter, in accordance with Standing Order 6.5.7.

## **1.8 Relationship with the National Professional Advisory Group**

The HPF Chair (or HPF Vice-Chair) will be a member of the National Professional Advisory Group.
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