

# All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme

Paediatric Workstream Update  
January 2022



## Introduction

The paediatric inpatient work stream is led by Sian Passey (Assistant Nurse Director Hywel Dda Health Board) Deputy Executive Nurse Director and sponsored by Greg Dix (Executive Nurse Director Cwm Taf University health Board) The work stream consists of representatives from each health board across Wales and is supported by Cardiff University and Dawn Parry paediatric project lead at Health Education and Improvement Wales. The purpose of the work stream is to support Health Boards to follow a 'Once for Wales' approach as they comply with the requirements of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act.

The second duty of the Act was extended to paediatric inpatients on the 1st October, and in accordance with the national schedule to prepare for extension, health boards have presented their nurse staffing level for each paediatric inpatient ward in September. The Act requires health boards to calculate the nurse staffing levels on every paediatric inpatient ward biannually as a minimum to ensure that wards have the right number and skill mix of staff to meet the needs of patients, with the principle of providing high quality care, positive outcomes and experiences for patients.

Since 2016 paediatric inpatient wards across Wales have been developing the tools required to support the calculation of the nurse staffing level. The workforce planning tool determines the number and skill mix of nursing staff required to meet the needs of patients by triangulating three critical sources of knowledge:

- patient acuity

- quality indicators
- professional judgement.

The Act empowers and supports nursing staff from ward to board to calculate, monitor, and maintain the nurse staffing levels. In conjunction with information from the adult acute medical and surgical wards, the data from paediatric inpatient wards will now be presented in annual assurance papers to Boards providing assurance on their compliance with the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act.

These reports are collated to inform the health boards three-yearly report to Welsh Government which provide evidence of their actions and progress in complying with the requirements of the Act.



## Progress to date

- Supported by HEIW, triangulation master class sessions have been held across Wales to support clinical teams in understanding how the data used as part of the triangulation methodology informs the nurse staffing calculation.
- Train the trainer sessions continue to be delivered across Wales and information materials have been developed to equip and empower operational teams.
- Publication of the Paediatric Operational Guide which has been developed to guide and support nursing teams to fulfil their responsibilities under the Act.
- The workstream group are supporting the revision of the national reporting templates to ensure that paediatric inpatient wards are referenced, and Health Boards follow the 'Once for Wales' approach when meeting the reporting requirements of the Act.
- Members of the paediatric workstream form part of a national group that are exploring a national IT system to capture the information required regarding patient acuity and staffing hours deployed.
- Piloting a national IT system to ensure that operational teams have access to their individual paediatric visualiser.
- Devised Frequently Asked Questions for nursing staff.
- Implementation of national patient experience questionnaires in all paediatric inpatient wards across Wales.
- The development of guidance for nurses and parents to support children and young people with additional learning needs to complete the national patient experience questionnaires.

# Next steps

- Development of an e-learning training package on use of the Paediatric Welsh Levels of Care tool.
- Supporting the development of a nursing dashboard to enable nursing teams to have access to 'live' local data.
- Implementation of the national IT system to enable health boards to access the information to inform decision making and reporting.

## Key Contacts

Workstream Sponsor: Greg Dix  
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