This is a monthly update for partners and stakeholders on progress with Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) from its Chief Executive, Alex Howells.

The forthcoming organisation, which will be a special health authority and the eleventh member of the NHS Wales family, will be formally established from 1 October 2018.

HEIW’s Shadow Period

Starting from this month, we are now into the formal shadow period for the establishment of HEIW, which will take place on 1 October 2018.

This means that as well as making sure the transition to the new organisation runs as smoothly as possible, we will be increasingly focused on developing our priorities and plans for when we are “up and running”.

We are really keen to ensure that we start to add value as quickly as possible – both in supporting some of the immediate pressures on services and staff, and as part of the Welsh Government’s long-term plan that will emerge from the Parliamentary Review.

During the shadow period, the transferring organisations (the Wales Deanery; NHS Wales’s Workforce, Education and Development Services (WEDS); and the Wales Centre for Pharmacy Professional Education (WCPPE)) will continue to function under their current organisational and governance arrangements.
Functions for the New Organisation

Following discussions on the new organisation’s functions with stakeholders in January, a document outlining them has been submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services for approval.

The functions will include: workforce planning; workforce intelligence; education commissioning and delivery; quality management; supporting regulation; workforce development; improvement and modernisation; widening access to careers in the NHS; leadership development; and succession planning.

HEIW’s Headquarters

Plans are progressing for the refurbishment of our new facilities at Ty Dysgu in Nantgarw, in readiness for 1 October.

Although much of the headquarters will be used as office accommodation, about one third will comprise of dedicated training, teaching, and meeting room facilities.

Whilst it is important to have a headquarters that brings together the three existing organisations, we do nonetheless still have a national remit, and will be keen to ensure that HEIW has a presence across Wales.

Organisational Arrangements

Preparations for the staff transfer process have already begun, with those affected moving into NHS Wales’s brand new special health authority from October.

The affected staff come from Cardiff University (the vast majority), WEDS, and the financial transactions function carried out as part of WEDS’s functions.

The first phase of the process to implement new organisational structures has also started, through development of the executive and senior leadership posts; these are currently being consulted on as part of the internal HR process.

New Appointments

Julie Rogers has recently taken up her secondment as Director of Workforce and OD/Interim Deputy CEO, whilst recruitment is also underway for other secondments into posts that are critical to the transition process, including the Head of Communications and Engagement, and the Head of People.

The job advert for a two-year secondment (or fixed-term role) as Board Secretary has also just been released, with the application deadline closing on Monday, 7 May.

Stakeholders and Partners

Introductory meetings are now underway with various stakeholders and partners.

These include NHS organisations, peer groups, professional bodies, academic and education providers, Welsh Government policy and professional leads – as well as anyone else who wants to meet with us!

Please get in touch if you want to discuss the establishment of HEIW by emailing me at alex.howells@wales.nhs.uk.

We also have a stakeholder event coming up at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea on Thursday, 10 May, and another at the Oriel Country Hotel in St. Asaph on Tuesday, 19 June.

Please come along to either, and contribute to the ongoing discussions around HEIW; for more information, please email heiw@gov.wales.
Thanks for your ongoing support,

Alex Howells
Chief Executive of Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)