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.
Who are we?

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) is a special health authority being set up within NHS Wales to integrate and grow expertise in planning, developing, shaping, and supporting the health workforce. We will be operational from Monday, 1 October, bringing together the Wales Deanery, the Wales Centre for Pharmacy Professional Education (WCPPE), and the Workforce, Education and Development Service (WEDS). Our functions will include: strategic workforce planning, workforce intelligence, education and training, workforce development and modernisation, leadership development, careers, and widening access.

We have just two months until HEIW is officially launched and we “go live” as the newest member of NHS Wales. Good progress is being made to deliver the new organisation by Monday, 1 October, but there are still lots of practical tasks to be completed. In addition, as we enter these final stages, we are focusing more on what we are going to be doing when we are up and running.

Since the last bulletin, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services has announced that Dr C.D.V. Jones has been appointed as the substantive Chair, having undertaken the role on an interim basis since last October. Dr Jones is already known to many of you, and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the new organisation.

The newly-appointed members of the Executive Team will all be with us by the start of October. Stephen Griffiths, Director of Nursing, is now in post, Danielle Neale, our Director of Finance and Corporate Services, will start with us on Monday, 27 August, and Professor Push Mangat, Medical Director, will be with us later in September. Dafydd Bebb, our new Board Secretary, will be with us at the end of August.

We have also finalised our organisational structures, and will be appointing into our vacant posts over the next few months. Some of the first jobs to be advertised will be the Head of Communications and Engagement, and the Deputy Director of Finance. We will also be looking for a Welsh Language Manager, and an Executive Support Manager. Other key posts will be advertised after the summer holidays, so please keep an eye out if you are looking for a development opportunity or a fresh challenge.

Although we are into summer holidays, we have been continuing our engagement programme with both staff and partners to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to influence and shape the establishment of the new organisation. We had a very productive stakeholder session with about 50 people on Tuesday, 31 July at Cardiff City Hall, and this has helped to inform our emerging vision and strategic objectives. We will include the final versions in the next bulletin, as they will provide a really important foundation for the launch of the new organisation, and for the priorities we will be setting for the first few years.

We are very aware that despite these bulletins, our stakeholder events, and our introductory meetings with a wide range of partners, there is still a long way to go in raising awareness about the new organisation, and in explaining what we are going to be doing. We are very much reliant on your help for this, so we would be really grateful if you could circulate these bulletins more widely to help us spread the word.

The next key event is our official launch, which is taking place at Cardiff City Stadium on Monday, 24 September, with Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services.

If you wish to find out about this, or any other HEIW events, please email heiw@gov.wales.

Thanks very much for your ongoing support,

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