

ALL WALES NURSE STAFFING PROGRAMME



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Paediatric Work Stream Update

SUMMER 2021

The paediatric work stream is led by Sian Passey (Assistant Director of Nursing Hywel Dda University Health Board) and sponsored by Greg Dix (Executive Nurse Director Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board). The work stream has a representative from each health board across Wales and is supported by 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 2016.

In February, the Sennedd confirmed the extension of the second duty of the Act to paediatric inpatient wards and set out the timetable of legal obligations for health boards to follow.

The Act requires health boards to calculate the nurse staffing levels on every Paediatric ward bi-annually 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 aim of providing high quality care, positive outcomes and experiences for patients.

Health boards are preparing for their first calculation to be undertaken by August 2021.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Over the last 12 months the workstream have undertaken extensive work focusing on the actions required to support health boards as they prepare for the extension of the second duty of the Act to paediatric inpatient wards.
- A training pack is being devised to enable operational leads to deliver local training to operational teams.
- Triangulation masterclasses have been delivered by the project lead in five health boards, the masterclasses have been developed to help equip health boards for calculating the nurse staffing levels prior to the legislation coming into force in October.
- Engagement with Children and Young People (CYP) continues and the youth boards and advisory groups have been supporting the development of a range of information materials in a format suitable for CYP to understand including: informing patient's template of the nurse staffing levels, CYP and parent and carer patient experience questionnaires and FAQs explaining the Act.

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- The revised Statutory Guidance (V2) to include paediatric inpatient wards was issued by Welsh Government in March. The workstream is working to devise Operational Guidance for Paediatrics to guide and support nursing teams to fulfil their responsibilities under the Act. The document will form part of a comprehensive information pack, the pack will contain all the documents and templates required to enable health boards to follow the Once for Wales approach and meet the requirements of the Act.

- A staff survey was completed in January, the survey received 200 responses with 1600 questions answered. The findings of the survey have been analysed and there are plans to run the survey on a bi-annual basis alongside the audit.
- The workstream have identified and agreed a minimum number of key quality and performance metrics to support consistency in evidencing the nurse staffing calculation and associated decision making. The operational leads are exploring with local informatics teams the feasibility of developing a system that can facilitate the capture of these metrics and provide nursing teams with this information in one report.
- An audit to explore ward attender/high throughput patients on paediatric inpatient wards has been completed in one health board with recommendations to complete a second pilot in all health boards.

NEXT STEPS

- Devise a checklist for health boards/draft board papers in preparation for implementation for extension of the Act.
- Develop training packs for health boards to ensure they are self-sufficient.
- The development of guidance for nurses and parents to support CYP with additional learning needs to complete the patient experience questionnaires.
- Support the amendment to the reporting templates to ensure that the information required for paediatric inpatients is identified.
- Completion and analysis of the ward attender/high throughput audits in all health boards.
- Support the work being undertaken to ensure that the Safecare module supports the requirements for paediatric inpatients.

