ALL WALES NURSE STAFFING PROGRAMME

Adult Medical & Surgical Inpatient Work Stream Update

SUMMER 2021

The adult inpatient work stream is led by Jason Roberts (Deputy Executive Nurse Director, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board) and sponsored by Ruth Walker (Executive Nurse Director Cardiff & Vale University Health Board). The work stream is made of representatives from each health board/trust 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.

The Act requires health boards to calculate the nurse staffing levels on every adult acute medical and surgical 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.

Since April 2018 adult medical and surgical wards across Wales have been using the workforce planning tool to determine their nurse staffing establishments. 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 IIndicators
* Professional Judgement

The Act empowers and supports nursing staff from the ward to the board to calculate, monitor and maintain the staffing levels. Each Welsh Health Board and NHS Trust presents annual assurance papers to their Board providing assurance on their compliance with the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act. These reports are collated to inform the three-yearly report to Welsh Government which evidences their actions and progress in complying with the Act.

Following a 12-week consultation period Welsh Government issued a revised version of the Statutory Guidance in March 2021 to include paediatric inpatients. Members of the adult workstream group contributed to the revised document.

# PROGRESS TO DATE

* Updated the Operational Guide to guide and support nursing teams to fulfil their responsibilities under the Act.
* Informed the development of the new incident reporting system to enable incidences related to nurse staffing levels to be recorded and investigated. This information will form part of the reporting process.
* Held a range of master classes across Health Boards to discuss the findings of the bi- annual audit and educate staff on use of the visualisers and the Welsh Levels of Care.
* Devised national reporting templates to ensure Health Boards follow the ‘Once for Wales’ approach when meeting the reporting requirements of the Act.
* Health Boards submitted their first report to Welsh Government in May, reporting their compliance with the requirements of the Act over the last 3-year period.
* Increase in the number of wards that are capturing data on patient acuity and dependency.
* Explore the use of a national IT system to enable health boards to capture information relating to patient acuity and staffing levels.
* Devised frequently asked questions for nursing staff.

# NEXT STEPS

* Further develop the visualiser to assist operational teams in analysing and utilising the data.
* Devise e-learning training package on use of the Welsh Levels of Care tool.
* Review the findings of the first tri-annual reports to Welsh Government.
* Equip and empower operational teams to be able to access data locally through a nursing dashboard.
* Implement the national IT system to enable health boards to access the information required to inform decision making and reporting.

**KEY CONTACTS**

Workstream Sponsor Workstream lead

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The work stream chair would like to thank colleagues and health boards/trusts across Wales for their continued support and excellent levels of engagement, which is essential to undertake this work.