



DIGITAL HEALTH AND CARE WALES BOARD CHAMPION ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Agenda Item	2.5
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Name of Meeting	SHA Board
Date of Meeting	27 March 2025

Public or Private	Public
IF PRIVATE: please indicate reason	N/A

Executive Sponsor	Chris Darling, Director of Corporate Affairs Board Secretary
Prepared By	Laura Tolley, Head of Corporate Governance Deputy Board Secretary
Presented By	Chris Darling, Director of Corporate Affairs Board Secretary

Purpose of the Report	For Noting
Recommendation	SHA Board is being asked to
NOTE the Board Champion Annual Report 2024-25 and APPROVE the change in Board Champion roles outlined in section 4.1.	

1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

STRATEGIC MISSION	Provide a platform for enabling digital transformation
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CORPORATE RISK (ref if appropriate)	
QUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ref if appropriate)	

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT	A Healthier Wales
If more than one standard applies, please list below:	

DHCW QUALITY STANDARDS	N/A
If more than one standard applies, please list below:	

DUTY OF QUALITY ENABLER	Leadership
DOMAIN OF QUALITY	Effective
If more than one enabler / domain applies, please list below:	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT	Date of submission: N/A
No, (detail included below as to reasoning)	Outcome: N/A
Statement: N/A	

IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
QUALITY AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS/IMPACT	No, there are no specific quality and safety implications related to the activity outlined in this report.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/IMPACT	No, there are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION/IMPACT	No, there are no specific financial implications related to the activity outlined in this report
WORKFORCE IMPLICATION/IMPACT	No, there is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.

SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPLICATION/IMPACT	No, there are no specific socio-economic implications related to the activity outlined in this report.
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IMPLICATION/IMPACT	No, there are no specific research and innovation implications relating to the activity outlined within this report.

2 APPROVAL / SCRUTINY ROUTE

Person / Committee / Group who have received or considered this paper prior to this meeting		
PERSON, COMMITTEE OR GROUP	DATE	OUTCOME
Board Champion Executive Leads	February 2025	Approved
Chris Darling, Director of Corporate Affairs Board Secretary	February 2025	Approved

Acronyms			
DHCW	Digital Health and Care Wales	SHA	Special Health Authority
NE	Non-Executive	WG	Welsh Government

3 SITUATION / BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with [Standing Order 1.4.12](#) the Chair will ensure that individual Board Members are designated as lead roles or 'champions' as required by Welsh Ministers or as set out in any statutory or other guidance. Any such role must be clearly defined and must operate in accordance with the requirements set by the Digital Health and Care Wales, the Welsh Ministers or others. In particular no operational responsibilities will be placed upon any Independent Member fulfilling such a role. The identification of a Board Member in this way shall not make them more vulnerable to individual criticism, nor does it remove the corporate responsibility of the other Board Members for that particular aspect of Board business.
- 3.2 Board champion posts have been introduced to Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts since 2003 and are a mix of statutory and non-statutory roles, to be held at non-executive (Independent Member), executive director level or both.
- 3.3 Welsh Health Circular [WHC/2021/002](#) sets out a reduced number of Board Champion roles Welsh Government have identified as continuing to need to be fulfilled.
- 3.4 A Board Champion provides Board leadership to the important areas highlighted for NHS Wales Board's, acting as an advocate and the conscience of the Board on the area of interest.
- 3.5 The SHA Board agreed that a report would be presented to the SHA Board annually on the Board Champion work that has been undertaken.

4 SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THIS MEETING (ASSESSMENT)

- 4.1 Board Champion roles have been updated to ensure even allocation between Independent Members. The changes are outlined in the below table and the Board are asked to **APPROVE** the change in the allocation of Board Champion roles.

Champion Role	DHCW Independent Member Board Champion 2024-25	DHCW Independent Member Board Champion 2025-26
Armed Forces and Veterans	Rowan Gardner	Alistair Klaas Neill

- 4.2 It is recognised that not all the Board Champion roles align to DHCW as directly as they do for Health Boards and NHS Trusts, however, DHCW have Board Champion leads for each area identified by Welsh Government.
- 4.3 The [Board Champion 2024-25 update](#) outlines National Activity, DHCW activity in addition to Forward Work Planned for each Board Champion role.

5 KEY RISKS / MATTERS FOR ESCALATION TO BOARD / COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Board Champion roles were designed with Health Board and NHS Trust organisations in mind, before Special Health Authorities had been established in Wales. Therefore, not all Board Champion roles are directly relevant to DHCW as Health Boards and NHS Trusts.

6 RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation	SHA Board is being asked to
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