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Transcript

30 November 2023

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

Good afternoon everybody, the IT is not playing ball today, but as we all know, the best laid plans of mice and men do not always shape up. So thank you very much everyone for joining us today.

Croeso, welcome and prynhawn da pawb. Good afternoon everyone. So my name's Liz Green. I'm a Consultant in Public Health and International Health for the Policy and International Health Directorate. We are a WHO World Health Organization Collaborating Centre and as part of our work we work internationally, but also we aim to promote international health activity and partnership working across Wales and the NHS in Wales. I think we would all agree that the last 3 1/2 years and even before that since 2016 with Brexit has seen the ever increasing importance of international health connections and partnership working, particularly around the pandemic where we globally tried to address a huge crisis that has affected millions and millions of people's lives.

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

So today we are going to present around some of our work. There's a long list here, Laura's put the slide up and so that's myself, Laura Holt who will be speaking as well in a moment. Laura is a Senior Public Global Public Health Officer in Public Health Wales and she works with me on the International Health Coordination Centre, which was established in 2013 and has a role in facilitating and enabling international health activity and partnership working across the NHS in Wales. There's also Emily Clark, who is a Senior Specialist Registrar, Abigail Malcolm, Golibe Ezenwugo, Daniela Stewart and Mariana Dyakova. So it is a very big collective effort and it has taken us, I would say Laura, a good sort of 12 to 18 months to get to the launch where we are.

So we're going to talk a bit about that, what the international health strategy, it's aims and objectives are and why we're doing it and how you can get involved if you want to.

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

So we're going to jointly do the presentation, Laura and myself, I'm only going to briefly talk about the background and then hand over to Laura's capable hands.

So the international health strategy, this is the 2023 version has been identified as an enabling strategy for public health Wales's long term strategy, and that long term strategy is from now and

projects until 2035. So bearing in mind all the changes that have happened that I've referred to, like Brexit, like the COVID-19 pandemic, the new ways of working that we have, most of us probably sat at home now rather than in an office and probably speak to people more online through this mechanism than we do sometimes have face to face contact, but also some of the conflicts that we're seeing now. So there's been significant changes and developments, including the cost of living crisis.

So the international health strategy, the original one was 2017 and this current new strategy and was supposed to be a refresh of it, but I would say it's actually been really a whole new piece of work and it has been aligned with the long term strategy, it's priorities and its objectives. So next slide please.

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

OK, so this is the sort of vision of Public Health Wales' international health global health offer for the long term strategy, so we are nationally focused. We are a public health agency for Wales, or the Public Health Agency for Wales, but also globally responsible, so we are outwardly looking as well as internally looking as well and we want to inspire people that they can connect, they can carry out international health activity and research or partnership working as part of their day to day jobs.

And I think most of us would imagine international health activity is going somewhere out of Wales internationally, maybe, you know, there's a focus in Wales on Sub Saharan Africa, for example, but actually a lot of the work that we do is part of our day job and we just don't recognize that and we do it right from where we sat now. So we're trying to enable and promote a healthier and fairer Wales We want to connect to the Well Being of Future Generations Act, the Well Being goals, the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, and also try to, you know, learn from each other to try and address some of these worldwide challenges and the goals that we have to better people's lives and the environments that they live in. Next slide please. So now going to hand over to Laura. Thank you.

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Laura Holt (Public Health Wales)

Great, thanks for that, Liz and hi everybody. So I'm going to talk to you now about, well, firstly about the aims of the strategy and then how we kind of came about and produced it. So what do we want out of all of this? Why are we doing this and what are our actual aims?

Well, as Liz mentioned, we want to maximize those benefits from the international learnings to basically improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Wales. Secondly, we want to develop globally responsible people and organisations, so this is directly linked to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, globally responsible goal and also the SDG's, as Liz mentioned, and finally we want to respond to global threats and then benefit from those international opportunities and all collaborations and partnerships as well. So those are our three aims of what we want out of all of this.

So to deliver these aims, we have created six enabling international health activities. So firstly you can see we plan to strengthen partnerships, collaborations and networks, drive best practice and innovation, build globally responsible citizens fulfilling international commitments. As we've mentioned before, we want to create an international health repository and newsletter, provide an international public health community of practice and finally support international opportunities.

Sorry, has my presentation gone?

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

It has, but it's back up now.

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Laura Holt (Public Health Wales)

OK, great, It's back. So those are our six international health activities. So a lot of this work will be driven forward by the international health team and the International Health Coordination Centre, myself and Liz, but all of Public Health Wales and our partners can also get involved and help us with all of these activities.

OK, so a bit of background on how we refreshed the strategy. So our methods and engagement included an extensive mapping exercise of Public Health Wales' international health activity in terms of what different teams are doing, but also the reach geographically and that was really interesting piece of work because there's so much international health work being carried out that we didn't know about and other people didn't know about. So there's loads of connections that we can join up.

Secondly, we interviewed different directorates, different teams asking about their global priorities, challenges and perceived benefits of international health work. We also conducted surveys and we also commissioned the Tropical Health Education Trust to undertake a scoping review to essentially help us with our data analysis and triangulation. So that was our approach to the refresh.

So, I'll just talk to you quickly about some of the biggest kind of findings from our interviews. So after asking people what they perceived the biggest global challenges were, these were kind of the topics that kept coming up. So obviously we've got health and equity, the climate crisis, migration and microbial resistance came up, pandemics and also struggling health systems. So it was really highlighted that these were the significant global challenges were facing and also how these could have huge impacts on Wales as well.

So to continue with our engagement findings, so these are some of the answers from our interview questions of what people perceived were the benefits of international health. So for example we've got here it's more effective when countries work together towards solutions for issues such as climate change. Also a really good example here is external perspectives on a problem, and help us to address our own challenges so that the ones we have in Wales, so it's really about taking the learning internationally and applying it to Wales.

So we then collected all of the benefits from our interviews and we map them against our organizational strategic priorities in Public Health Wales and you can see here from this diagram how they all interlink with all of the strategic priorities. For example, developing globally responsible organizations and citizens really linked in with our tackling the effects of climate change. I won't read them all out, but again supporting sustainable development and implementation of its principles, that links in with supporting sustainable health and care system here. So this shows how much the benefits of the activities for international health underpin everything that we do in our organization and how they can really support the strategic priorities.

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Laura Holt (Public Health Wales)

So as I previously mentioned, we carried out a huge mapping exercise and this was the product of this. So you can see here how many different you know collaborations we have and how far reaching they are geographically. So this really shows that we really need a strategy so that we can have a different and a structured strategy towards international health collaborations because they're already happening across the organization. We just need to really find out what's happening where and who's doing what so we can really learn from those and get the benefits to our organization and to Wales realized. So I think that's a really, really good kind of demonstration on what we're already doing.

OK, so next I'm going to talk about some international health examples. So if you think about international health, you know what comes to mind? Probably something like these photos. So the first photo here is of myself in South Africa, carrying out a global citizenship workshop. The middle photo is the work we've carried out in Ukraine and the final photo is some international learning opportunities placement in Uganda.

So I think these are really like typical international health activities of what people think about when they think about global health and they think about going to another country, doing a workshop, doing work etc.

But actually as you can see from this slide, a lot of our international health work is actually carried out from people's desks. Liz, I don't know if you want to come in here because I know this is definitely your area of expertise.

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

Thank you. Some of these examples, you'll see that the one in the middle, for example, I'm also Programme Director for health impact assessment in Public Health Wales and we've carried out health impact assessments on climate change, on the lockdown, on homeworking and actually in terms of that reach that Laura's talking about, they've been used and replicated by other public health institutes for example and that's led them to have conversations with me, with the HIA support unit team, with colleagues around the organization. We all have those similar kind of networks that this virtual environment has enabled.

So, for example, we've discussed the climate change health impact assessment with the UK Government, with Welsh Government, with Scottish Government, but also as far as New Zealand, where a public health agency there is very interested in carrying out their own climate change health impact assessment at a regional or a more local level.

So there's also, you know, these are from the International Health Directorate and Division, but actually we all know of other examples and Doctor Fu-Meng will come on and present about his work with the International Association of National Public Health Institutes and a lot of our work now is done virtually attending meetings etc and learning from each other in that way. Laura.

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Laura Holt (Public Health Wales)

Great, thanks Liz. OK, so how can you support and get involved? Well, you can do as little or as much as you like really. So for example, just sign up to our mail list and be part of our newsletter, or receive our newsletter. Now, this isn't just for Public Health Wales employees, this is for all of our stakeholders across the NHS and anybody else who is interested in international health.

You can join our community of practice. This is specifically for international public health, but with this we're thinking of potentially an annual event, but mostly a network of collaborators where we can share learning. If you're really keen, you can complete our global citizenship training, so this is a free e-learning resource on www.learning.nhs.wales. It is a really good resource that anybody can access and I think it really helps to get people thinking more about how Wales and the outside world are connected and how global issues can also affect Wales and to get us thinking outside of our bubble, so it's really great. The links are on here, so I'll share these slides with you afterwards if you want to get involved in that training.

You can do something like find an international health link in your directorate or organization and you can get involved with that, see what's going on there, or you can even do something as small as kind of looking for, you know, solutions internationally. So if you've got processes that need changing, if you're looking into policy, research and practice, you can start thinking about looking to what other countries are doing. I know loads of people already do this, but just starting to think outside again of Wales and outside of the UK even to look for those solutions abroad you can bring in loads of learnings into Wales.

Another thing you can do is that you can build your own international partnerships so your team could look to do this if they don't already have any. So we actually have a toolkit to help with building international health partnerships that I can share with you all. It's basically a pack and a how to guide of how to set up partnerships or if you're going on an international placement you can look at how to do that as well. And finally, if you're really keen and you want to go away somewhere, Welsh government do run funded placements. They do an international learning opportunity or an international grant, so again you can look at these links in further detail and you can actually go that extra step and go one of these learning opportunities.

Great and finally how do we track progress on our international health strategy? Well, as Liz and I mentioned before, we will be continuously engaging with this via the International Health Coordination Centre, we will undertake data collection. For example, we will use our engagement

finding as a baseline and look for new international health activity going on. And we also have monitoring and evaluation plan in place. So that's it from us.

Thank you very much and does anybody have any questions before we go on to Meng's presentation?

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

Thank you, Laura. I can see we've had one question in the chat. Is the international partnerships toolkit only relevant for international or could it be utilized for more local activity please?

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Laura Holt (Public Health Wales)

I suppose it could be what, depends on what sort of local activity you were looking for?

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

I actually think it could because of the principles behind it. So it's never been tested that way, Emma, but it doesn't mean to say it couldn't be. I would be very interested in that and exploring that, actually it could be something for us to think about, Laura. We're looking at new and innovative methods of what we've got, so yes, that could be very good.

And as anybody else got any questions for us please? No. OK, well, if you do think of anything, please put them in the chat and we can answer some more questions at the end.

I'm very pleased to see that Professor Fu-Meng Khaw has joined us. Thank you so much Meng for joining us today and presenting on your work. And so just to tell you who Fu-Meng is, Meng joined Public Health Wales in 2021 and he has oversight for the delivery of screening, microbiology, health protection services, as well as professional oversight for doctors and public health specialists. So no small job, a massive job and very busy, so we're very grateful that you've come today.

Meng is a qualified surgeon and public health specialist and has worked in a range of roles, including as a CDC in Health Protection Agency, and he's been Director of Public Health, but also Center Director for the East Midlands in Public Health England, before it was transformed into the UK HSA and OHID and Meng is chair with the final membership examiners for the Faculty of Public Health, and he's got an honorary fellowship with the Birmingham Leadership Institute and an honorary associate professorship with the University of Leicester.

So thank you, ovely for you to join, but I should importantly say that today you're going to talk about your role within the International Association of National Public Health Institutes, so if you'd like to share your screen and then talk to us that that would be lovely. Thank you.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

Diolch Liz and Prynawn Da Pawb. Good afternoon everyone. It's such a pleasure to be here. I've just come from a board meeting where we've had a really lively discussion about a whole range of things so I'm quite excited already and I'm just delighted to have this opportunity to share with you the work that I've had the privilege to do with IANPHI. So I'll just share my slides and just do a check to see whether you can see it. So is that coming through?

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

Yes, it just needs to be put into slideshow please.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

Yes. I'm just doing that now. Is that now in slide show?

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

No.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

I'll select a different window, I think it goes into a different window if I put it on slide show.

So the International Association of National Public Health Institutes is a member organization that comprises at the last count officially in November last year, 115 members in 98 countries and it's organized in four regions and more of that detail later, and the mission of IANPHI is to really collectively build public health capacity globally and it's capabilities by connecting, developing and strengthening the national public health institutes across the world.

And they do this through facilitating collaboration between, you know, a number of institutes or the collective membership and also to provide a resources and technical assistance. And clearly it's a subscription membership, so countries pay an annual retention fee and they pay according to their means. So high income countries will pay much more than low income countries and I think that's the spirit of the partnerships that we built across the global community.

And it also is an increasingly recognized global entity for public health. So as a collective, it gives a voice to the work of individual and collective institutes for public health and more importantly as

well it's seen as a key collaborator with the WHO, and I can give you a little bit more information about that work later.

The strategic priorities for IANPHI are four fold. One is to strengthen the professional relationships, recognizing that IANPHI provides a unique global forum. So if you compare us, say with WHO or WHO is not just about public health, you know there will be a health care delivery as part of its construct, although it focuses largely on public health, the unique opportunity for IANPHI is the public health institutes that are members obviously have a common denominator around ambitions around public health. So I think it really cements the professional relationships between us.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

The second is to provide the collective expertise of members to develop the public health capacity at a global level. It then also focuses on how we engage, support and grow the diverse and unified membership base, recognizing that clearly the systems and contexts which all the public health institutes work in will vary greatly between countries and then lastly is to be a global advocate and at country level for how the public health institutes are key in the public health systems in our own countries.

And the overarching priority is that we are able to be agile in our approach and I'll give a couple of examples of how we, you know, rise to ongoing challenges and how we adapt our focus to meet with the changing technologies that we find ourselves in and the changing priorities that we face.

So just moving ahead, we have a governance arrangement with an executive board chaired by Duncan Selby, formerly chief Executive for Public Health England. He's the president of IANPHI and he's now come up to the end of his first three year term and likely to have an extension of that going forward. And then the four regions that I mentioned earlier are not what you would expect. Certainly it was a surprise to me not to see America, North America in that. But Canada is kind of a member of the Europe network, interestingly, and their director of the Association is actually an Executive Board member, so they play a very critical role and my understanding is that they have provided significant funding for the work of IANPHI as well. Asia is a network, Africa and Latin America.

Now, clearly in some of these entities there are other entities for public health that bring countries together, such as ECDC and the African CDC. These are, you know, cross countries and some operate at continent level and some operate through legislative, you know geographic boundaries such as the European Union. Now we work very closely with those regional entities, but there is clearly a need to avoid duplication so a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities is really helpful in that.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

At a previous board meeting, it was agreed as part of the priorities for the last financial year, to establish a so called Focal Point Network, and these are the focal points that each Member Institute

can designate as the key point of contact for tactical and operational issues, recognizing that often the directors of public health institutes will not have the bandwidth to really get into the space of IANPHI business.

So I'm fortunate enough to be the focal point for Public Health Wales and work very closely with Tracy to make sure that the business of IANPHI, the work of IANPHI is known within Public Health Wales, and that when there are calls for assistance or help that I can coordinate that input. So some people on the call may have had emails from me to say look, IANPHI Europe is doing a webinar on X, anyone want to join, or IANPHI is putting in the thematic committees which I've listed five of the thematic committees, some are actually running and a call for people to contribute to those committees.

So here's a plug if anyone's interested in any of these five thematic committees, you know you're very welcome to put your name forward to contribute. You can do that independently. I'm happy to facilitate that, but if you do, please let me know that you've actually expressed interest to join one of those committees. I've put myself forward for the pandemic preparedness response and recovery committee, which is going to be established shortly and it's also just to say that the focal point network has agreed some ways of working which really help us understand the links between those with the tactical, operational know how for each of the member organizations that come together as a network and I'm one of the three Co chairs for the focal point network, and I've agreed to be the link in between the focal point network and the executive board.

So the purpose of that is to ensure that there's a two way conversation that the Executive Board in driving forward its actions and priorities has access to the focal point, network to operationalize and implement some of those actions.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

And in return, I think the focal point network can gather thoughts and suggestions to then put up to the Executive Board so, you know, I think that conduit works really well. The second co-chair will also join the cross regional meetings and these are meetings of the chairs of each of the four regions whom meet every quarter to discuss commonalities and comparing and contrasting and learn from each other. So Sophie from Belgium, she's the co-chair who's going to be linking with the cross regional meetings and then we've also agreed that the co- chairs will take part in the thematic committees, hence me offering to join the preparedness response and resilience and recovery Thematic Committee.

So I think because it's quite new, the focal point, networks are still finding its feet in terms of what they focus on. But one of the first things that we did, I'll come on to later to give an example of the work which builds on the work we did in May 2022, where IANPHI agreed that we should have a mission to Poland to understand about its immediate phase of response to the crisis in Ukraine and the support it provided to refugees fleeing the country. You know, Poland was the net importer of Ukraine refugees and at the peak that was seeing, you know, hundreds of thousands people cross the border to Poland. And that set up humanitarian challenges and also challenges around coordination.

So we felt that actually it would be useful to kind of learn from their experience and as Wales were starting to stand up its welcome centre's as a national sanctuary, I thought it would be really useful for me to join the mission as it was, it was only UK to say ourselves and Norway who were represented on the trip. And we were, you know, very ably and well hosted by Gregorich Ushaq, who is the person on the extreme right who was the director of the Public Health Institute in Poland.

But I mean we were shown around the various sites we were taken to the borders to the areas of refuge, the sanctuary, the welcome centre's that they put up with makeshift beds and facilities to deal with the masses that were coming across and what we set out to do was to try to identify what the immediate needs were and what solutions were put in place that actually national public health institutes across the world could adopt and an opportunity to strengthen the coordination between our institutes to support Ukraine, Poland and affected countries. So we had very clear objectives when we went out for the visit and learning exercise and what we did was we published it in the peer review journal as a public health journal open document which the link is in the presentation.

If you're interested, please do click on it to get the article and on the IANPHI website itself we published a report on the learning we gleaned from it and one of the kind of really heart rending experiences was to see pictures drawn by children. You know, up on the walls of the refuse centres and this one, you know, clearly depicts warfare and clearly depicts at some of the contrast between, you know, the adverse impacts of warfare and what people are trying to protect, which is their homes and a happy lives.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

So in many respects it was a very emotional experience for me personally, but what we learn from Poland was, you know, it is possible. One of the challenges was actually coordinating all the offers of support, so all the NGOs were piling in, but actually there was no existing governance or coordination mechanism to ensure that there was no duplication and that there was organization of all that effort and another key learning point was how do you deal with offers of support from professionals. So they had lots of doctors who are offering support, but because they weren't regulated in Poland, they had to be mechanisms to put in emergency legislation for them to be able to contribute.

So that was the mission to Poland and subsequently you know when Ukraine Public Health Center were seeking further more detailed support, they came out to IANPHI to ask whether we could, you know, reach out to our members to coordinate this, and this is where the focal point network kicked in.

So at the back end of the last year and the beginning of this year, following the formal request from the Public Health Center in Ukraine, we collaborated with ECDC and WHO to offer a package of support on their request for guidance, development, training and workforce development and the drafting of public health regulations and the coordination culminated in a spreadsheet that was essentially sent to Ukraine detailing what offers of support there were from across the world and it meant that Ukraine Public Health Center were inundated with separate proposals for support coming in different formats.

So I think that coordination was the probably the first example of how we can successfully organize our efforts through the network and I trust now that there's a bit more reinvigoration of the network we can do more of that. I think there was a problem in terms of staffing because the person supporting the focal point network left in in May and then since May it's gone really quiet because that facilitation was really, really important. But now that they've got someone in place, we're hoping to resurrect that focal point network and meet again in January to really ask what our direction of travel should be.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

So the other things that IANPHI does as part of its ambition to build capacity and capability is to organize a series of webinars and if you look at the link that I've put in the slide there, you will see a whole list of webinars. Some are organized at a regional level that may be more relevant to a particular region, but most of them are of global interest, so I would encourage you, if you're interested, to just watch one of those webinars because they're all recorded and you can play them back. And I think shortly after I started becoming involved in IANPHI, I was asked to lead a webinar on how to maintain scientific independence during the COVID pandemic, and it was a really interesting discussion.

We had two directors talking about their experiences and I learned so much just by chairing the panel discussion because it is a difficult balance to strike about how you maintain scientific independence in an organization that's funded by government and you know, we were hearing all sorts of stories about people facing personal threats to their security and, of course, in the public inquiry in the UK, you will have heard our DCMO, JVT, fondly known to me, you know, had personal threats to the safety of his family. So these were real issues about the cost of maintaining scientific independence.

Anyway, I'm going into quite detail about something that I was directly involved with, and you can't blame me for that, but the other webinars that then were part of the program earlier this year as well, and then most recently artificial intelligence in public health was something that Louisa Noland Head of Data Science in Public Health Wales contributed to and that was a really interesting discussion about where AI is going to end up in public health. It's probably not a matter of when, but how.

So if you're interested, please do look at those webinars and watch them with interest.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

So I'm going to finish off just by saying that IANPHI is an organization that relies on its members to contribute and be engaged in its work. So there are always opportunities to participate or contribute to the webinars and we've had examples of three webinars that PHW have contributed to. Liz, you will know that there's been some interest in work on, you know, health in all policies and HIA which is uniquely placed in legislation in Wales. And I know, Liz, when you presented to the IANPHI annual

meeting in Lisbon, it was really well received. So you know, seeing that connection made as a result of that is a testament that this mechanism works to bring to the attention to the world areas that we're really proud of that can have an impact on population well-being. And then the other areas I mentioned before, the thematic committees and then specific projects in areas of work, the public health emergency workforce is a formal arrangement between the WHO and IANPHI and are starting to look at the global health core as a consequence, and Public Health Wales will be engaged in some of that that work going forward.

There was recently an integrated disease surveillance project. We provided some information and feedback and that's now culminated in a discussion and report. There's always the opportunity for new developments to be proposed and you know we can take it through the National Focal Point network and I'm happy to do it on half of Public Health Wales.

So my contact details are there on the slide and if you are interested or you have any questions about IANPHI I'm very, very happy to have a discussion with you, so please do contact me and I'll stop there. Thanks Liz.

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

That was amazing, thank you so much Meng, that was super, super interesting and if anybody's got any questions then please put them in the chat. But we do have one already, well, two really for you Meng.

So the first one is, are there any countries that are particularly progressive, innovative or exciting in their thinking for Wales to learn from?

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

Oh, that's a really, really good question. And you know, I think Norway potentially who's been you know chairing some of the webinars, so the regional chair is in Norway and they're institute has a lot of fingers in a lot of pies. I think there are some areas of work we could build on because they did a seminar which actually they were interested in themselves which was about how do you make sense of science in the pandemic when you were putting in place non pharmaceutical interventions and social measures and the science behind that webinar was really incredible because it was talking about the Danish experience about going out and doing a comparative trial of wearing face masks and you know the flak that they got when they published their findings to say actually you know it probably didn't make a lot of difference was quite controversial at the time. So I think Norway has an ethos about them that they're not afraid to go into areas of controversy.

I don't know enough about the other institutes to comment on whether you know there are exemplars but one of the things that we're doing as the focal point network is to build a profile for each of the members and the profile will be able to highlight so if I'm reading the question correctly then it may be that if we had that profile available then people can search through it and say ohh I'm

interested in health promotion where shall I go for an exemplar and it might be you know Talin, it might be Estonian.

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

That's really interesting. It's a bit like the mapping that we did, the international health activity and where it reaches and what its focus is in Public Health Wales, which we know is a massive task but to do that at a global level.

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Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

So you know to be able to say to the world if they don't know it already, that we're leading edge on HIA, we're leading edge on ACES, you know and all those things. I think it's a great tool for connecting people who are interested.

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Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

That's fantastic and the other part of the question is how, Cerys is wondering how Wales is viewed globally?

0:48:7.590 --> 0:48:10.60

Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

Ah, Wales is right up there I'm so proud of being in Public Health Wales. I can't tell you how proud I am, but Wales is talked about. People reach out to us. People know about the work that we do. So Mark Bellis came out to the European meeting last year in Stockholm. No, not Stockholm in Talin and you know he talked about a global violence and impact and you know it was so well received and you know Mark's a really good speaker and the slides were really, really powerful and people remember that and people talk about it so I think Wales is Wales is right up there.

0:48:53.10 --> 0:48:53.900

Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

I think you're right, we have our core things that we're known for and so people, even if they don't formally know they might informally know through those connections. And I think IANPHI, I was very interested in what you were saying about how it coordinated some of those efforts and challenges

around the Ukraine war. You know, so that Poland could benefit and other people could benefit from that. So that was marvellous.

I don't think we've got any other questions, but from me if you don't mind my chairs prerogative, I was thinking about, you know, some of the challenges, like International Health Partnership working activity can sort of bring in terms of people think that not part of their job or it's another thing to do on top of their job. And I think we show that we can sort of try and manage that quite well, but do you find it you're like me, I think you love doing it, but it can also be another thing or do you not feel it's like that? You might say, well, I never feel like that, Liz, I don't know.

0:50:23.960 --> 0:50:27.810

Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

Liz, my motto is variety is the spice of life, I think without variety I wouldn't exist I wouldn't be me. That's just the way I'm built, so I do look for opportunities and so my story with IANPHI goes back to 2018, when I went to Johannesburg, sponsored by Public Health England, to be trained up as a stage development tool facilitator and guess who I met there, but Andrew Jones, who is currently my deputy, and Andrew and I plotted to do something together as trained facilitators.

So he invited me into Public Health Wales in December 2019 and we did an SDT session with my current team actually, and then you know, that gave me a glimpse into the organization and I was really struck then, and the purpose of saying that is you just never know what those paths will lead to. For me, it actually led to this job actually because had I not gone to South Africa, I wouldn't have met Andrew. Had I not met Andrew, I wouldn't have been doing the co-facilitation. Had I not come to Public Health Wales, I wouldn't have had that kind of really positive experience right from the outset.

So I think sometimes if you don't take the opportunities you, you never experience the full breadth of the future, but what I would say is it has to be proportionate and it has to add value to people in Wales. So for me, the mission to Poland was going to add value because we were setting up the welcome centers. So coming back with the messages to then feed into the people who are leading on the development of welcome centers, I think more could have been done, but we shared the learning and we shared it in Wales for the benefit of people in Wales looking after people from Ukraine.

0:52:45.870 --> 0:52:46.900

Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

Fantastic, So somebody's asked about how can I become a member of IANPHI?

0:52:56.780 --> 0:53:3.0

Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

So is that question from someone in Public Health Wales, looks like it is.

0:53:1.450 --> 0:53:5.570

Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

Yes it's the institute isn't it that's a member.

0:53:7.120 --> 0:53:14.170

Meng Khaw (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter)

So Public Health Wales is a member, so by default, Selena you are a member too, and if you're interested, you know, come and have a chat with me and experience, IANPHI because, you know, I'm sure, depending on what your skill set and experiences we could make use of that that input. So if you're interested, please let me know.

0:53:31.220 --> 0:53:32.100

Liz Green (Public Health Wales)

Fantastic. Thank you. Well, we've run out of time. So on that positive note, thank you so much Meng for coming, it was super interesting and thank you to everybody for attending today. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

There is an evaluation of the session and the link is being put in the chat. We will make the slides available to everyone and if you do want to engage or talk more through these things than please do come to myself or Laura. If you want to know more about Meng and his work or ask, I'm sure you're you're very happy to talk to people Meng, as you've said.

So thank you, diolch yn fawr iawn, thank you very much and we will say goodbye for now.