

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

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Dutch Ministry of Health Visit to Wales



On 16 – 18 October, representatives from the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) and the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) joined Public Health Wales, Welsh Government health leaders and a representative for the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for a collaborative and learning exchange.

Sumina Azam, National Director for Policy and International Health, said: "It was a huge privilege to welcome delegates from RIVM and the Netherlands Ministry of Health. We found we had much in common, such as ongoing work on climate change, environmental health, health impact assessment and futures.

We had the opportunity to reflect and share learning with each other on our public health challenges and our work to address these."

There was agreement on the role of public consultation in policy-making and a shared commitment to fostering community involvement in health initiatives.

Next Steps

Participants agreed that identifying opportunities for collaborative research and policy action in a few areas would be of mutual benefit and were committed to deepening future joint working.

The Welsh Health Equity Solutions Platform (WHESP) has been refreshed

Whether you're working in public health or other sectors addressing health inequalities, the Welsh Health Equity Solutions Platform is designed to provide the insights and resources you need to drive impactful change.

We invite you to explore the platform and share it with colleagues who could benefit from these valuable tools. Let's work together to ensure healthier, more equitable

outcomes for everyone in Wales and beyond.

Visit the platform website [here](#).



Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET) becomes Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET)



As of 6 November 2024, THET has a new name: Global Health Partnerships. The clear, modern name better reflects the focus of their work – which remains the same – working globally in partnerships to improve the quality and affordability of health care in lower- and middle-income countries.

The development of their 2022-2027 Strategic Plan sharpened the focus on evolving language and identity in light of ongoing decolonisation debates – whilst their work has always promoted mutually beneficial partnerships led by locally determined priorities, they recognised that the name was increasingly out of step with the work they were doing on the ground. They were also hit hard by the reductions in UK aid in 2021, meaning the need to attract new funding sources going forward. A clear, modern name that says 'what they do on the tin' is key to this.

“We are excited to launch our new name, which we feel provides us with the strongest possible platform to continue our brilliant work around the world. Our new name says what we do on the tin: we are global, we are passionate about health, and we work in partnership.”

Ben Simms, CEO Global Health Partnerships

The relaunch as Global Health Partnerships also provides a springboard for expansion within the UK, and they have merged with the Wales and Africa Health Links Network as of October 2024. The new name will be adapted to encompass this exciting development, bringing into existence Global Health Partnerships Cymru.

Visit the website [here](#).

Health Protection Lead Nurse joins the Mpox response in Kenya



A specialist Health Protection Lead Nurse, who was inspired to work overseas thanks to her parents, is travelling to Kenya to support the outbreak of Mpox.

Amanda Daniel, the Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) Lead Nurse Specialist for the Community HARP team, has been deployed with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) as a consultant to support the outbreak of Mpox in Kenya. Amanda will be based in Nairobi for two months as part of her reservist role with the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST).

The UK-PHRST is a key international partner in epidemic disease response. It partners with low- and-middle income countries (LMICS) to respond to infectious disease outbreaks before they develop into global health emergencies. The UK-PHRST has expertise in epidemiology, microbiology, infection prevention and control (IPC), social science, risk communication, mental health and psychosocial support.

On her deployment, Amanda said: "Outbreaks are the new normal and we need to work collaboratively and globally to try and contain infection before it spreads.

"Learning in LMICs is always bi-directional, it is important to understand cultural differences so we can apply them in writing policy and guidelines. We can also gain knowledge of how to be resourceful and make better use of limited resources and consider sustainability."

What is Mpox?

Mpox (previously known as monkeypox) is a rare infection most commonly found in parts of central and east Africa. The risk of catching it in the UK is low. Mpox is transmitted from person to person and also from infected rodents (such as rats, mice and squirrels).

Symptoms take between 5 and 21 days to appear and include: high temperature (fever), headache, muscle aches and backache.

There is no current proven treatment for Mpox, but it usually goes away on its own.

A Visit to the Land of the Rising Sun

IHAG (International Health Activity Group) member Diana De, a nurse educator from the School of Healthcare Sciences, Cardiff University, undertook a scholarly visit to the Institute of Sciences, Tokyo (formerly known as Tokyo Medical and Dental University).

This transnational collaboration was forged upon both university's delivering global health modules promoting public health to student nurses.

Diana's visit took place the end of November 2024 and was sponsored by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation. Partnering also with the University of Waikato, New Zealand, Cardiff University and Institute of Sciences, Tokyo, an international collaborative online (COIL) activity in Spring 2024.

COILs are considered a unique pedagogical approach that looks past traditional didactic ways of teaching. As the project had gained ethical approval, co-authored quantitative findings were able to be presented by Diana at the international Nurse Education Today and Nurse Education in Practice Conference, Singapore (NET/NEP 2024), which coincided with her trip to Japan. The qualitative data collected from the mixed methods study are presently being analysed.



Diana's first guest lecture drew upon her involvement with civic mission and public engagement with Cardiff University. This is where health, wealth and wellbeing of communities are put foremost. Diana's talk stimulated attendees to think more inclusively about how they teach in the Japanese context and to consider changing student and population demographics more. By highlighting risks and the importance of health professionals being competent to assess various disease/aetiology in different skin tones, she challenged attendees to instigate new way of working.

On return to the UK, Diana was immensely proud to be the 2024 winner of the Cardiff University excellence in Civic Mission and Public Engagement Award.

Marie Brousseau-Navarro's exchange visit to Finland



In early October 2024, Marie Brousseau-Navarro (Deputy Commissioner and Director of Health at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales) and Sumina Azam (National Director of Policy and International Health, WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health & Well-being at Public Health Wales) took part in a 3-day high level exchange visit to Helsinki (Finland).

The purpose of the visit was for Finland to learn from Wales about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and from the work in Wales on a well-being economy model to inform their reflections as they set to deepen their own well-being economy framework.

Sumina and Marie met with officials from THL (PHW's equivalent in Finland) to talk about their work and their approaches to food, public health data, learning from their recent merger of social and health local services in Finland, how the Economy of Well-being approach can promote health and well-being and financing of health and social services. They took part in workshops organised by THL.

They also met with representatives of the Government, in particular General Secretary of Ministry for Social Affairs and Health Veli-Mikko Niemi and with Eeva Furman, Chief Specialist, Prime Minister's Office, Government Strategy Department, Government Policy Unit who wanted to know more about our work in Wales.

Marie had the honour of meeting with Pekka Puska, former Director of THL and the creator of the world-renowned North Karelia Project.

Marie and Sumina agreed to continue to work together and have further exchanges with Finland around foresight, learning more about healthcare reforms and the merger of services and health economics.

Events from October–December 2024

17th European Public Health Conference

Thursday 14 November 2024 | Lisbon, Portugal



Prof. Liz Green, Public Health Wales, was very active at the European Public Health Conference in Lisbon.

Liz gave two presentations: – one on ‘Capturing the health and well-being impact of climate change: a health impact assessment (HIA) in Wales’ and the other in a round-table workshop entitled ‘Climate crisis: urgent legal action and capacity building to protect and promote public health’.

Liz also presented two posters and co-chaired the HIA Section meeting.

Climate Cymru

The Place of Climate Justice in adapting to our Changing Climate

Wednesday 13 November 2024 | Online

Climate Cymru held an online panel event during Wales Climate Week, with panelists from Palestine, Nigeria and Tuvalu.

Wellbeing Economy Cymru 2024 Economi Llesiant Cymru FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Monday 18th November



4theRegion, WE Cymru, Oxfam Cymru, Cwmpas, Public Health Wales and the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales organised the inaugural Wellbeing Economy Cymru conference in November 2024.

This event aimed to change how we think about our economy, its purpose, and its possibilities – and highlighted the practical actions being taken at local, regional and national level to transition Wales to a wellbeing economy.

Hub Cymru Africa/Global Health Partnerships Cymru Annual Lecture Infections Resistant to Antibiotics: a global health challenge

Thursday 12 December | 2024

Infections resistant to antibiotics are a global health challenge affecting everyone, including Wales, UK & Africa. This lecture discussed what can be done to reduce the risks.

Public Health Wales' International Public Health Forum

Wednesday 20 November 2024 | Online

Colleagues across Wales, shared their learnings from engaging in international health activities and research, discussing opportunities for the future to engage in international partnerships working and networks.

If you missed the forum, a recording can be found **here**

Upcoming Events and Conferences

Hub Cymru Africa Safeguarding Essentials

Tuesday 21 January 2025 10:00am – 1:00pm | Online

This training will take participants through the essential Safeguarding practices and requirements for organisations working in global solidarity with partners in Africa. Click [here](#) to register.

Global Health Conference Creativity through Crisis: Lessons from Global Mental Health

Thursday, April 10, 2025 | 8:30 am - 1:30 pm PDT

Virtual & In-Person at the Chan Centre for Family Health Education. This event will examine the intensifying impact of global events such as conflict, climate change, and COVID-19 on mental health disparities worldwide.

Click [here](#) to register.

18th European Public Health Conference 2025 Investing for sustainable health and well-being

Main conference 12 - 14 November 2025

Pre-conferences 11 November 2025

Helsinki, Finland

1 February 2025 Abstract submission **opens**

1 April 2025 Registration opens

Get in Touch

If you have any stories or international projects you wish to be featured in our upcoming newsletters, please email:

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