

Animal and Environment Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Delivery Group for Wales

**Minutes of the meeting held in Harlech Room, CP2, Welsh Government Building, Cardiff on 27th
August 2019**

Present at Meeting

Gavin Watkins (GW)	Ifan Lloyd (IL)
Estevao Simoes (ES)	Llyr Lewis (LIL)
Eifiona Williams (EW)	Wyn Evans (WE)
Rob Smith (RS)	Catherine Cody (CC)
Gareth Thomas (GT)	Ian Jones (IJ)
Paul Green (PG)	Sian Timms (ST) - Secretariat
Iestyn Jones (IyJ)	Marc Alford-Evans (MAE) – Secretariat Support

Apologies

Eleri Davies (ED)	Robin Howe (RH)
Amelia Stevens (AS)	Marion Lyons (ML)

Agenda Item 1: Minutes and Actions from the Last Meeting (GW)

1. GW opened the second meeting of the AMR Delivery Group.
2. GW told everyone that he felt the main purpose of this meeting should be to work out the delivery options of the new Implementation Plan for AMR.
3. The delivery group approved the minutes of the previous meeting. It was agreed to continue all correspondence via email. MAE explained that one of the outstanding actions from the last meeting would be to supply biographies and pen pictures for the Delivery Group page on the Welsh Government website. The Delivery Group agreed to give these during the lunch break.
4. GW updated the group on the AMR Implementation Plan launch and the AMR event held by the Welsh Government at the RWS. WE commemorated OCVO on the event.

Agenda Item 2: Round Table Updates (All)

5. GW invited IL and RS to explain the RDP Project. RS explained that the project is for three years and will assist in giving advice on responsible use in the farming community. Iechyd Da will continue collecting data on the purchase of antibiotics since the last set of information was collected. IL added that it builds on work that the delivery partners have already given and focuses on cattle and sheep instead of pigs and poultry.
6. RS agreed with WE that this work was important when using the data that will be collected.

7. PG asked what were the metrics to measure the impacts of the project to know the success of it. RS explained that after collecting the data of almost all farm practices in Wales before, the data gave a marker to follow. Targets have already been set but the goals have not been identified yet because he will need to have a discussion with IL about this first. PG followed up by asking how the project would follow the change of attitude to prescribing. PG asked if there would be specific prescription courses with adequate information and RS said that there is already one which he found to be specific and helpful. GW commented that in Wales there is already a programme on AMR training in Animal Health and Welfare. IJ suggested that giving vet surgeons more responsibility due to the misuse of Antibiotics. CC agreed and said there existed a similar situation with GPs and antibiotics for humans.
8. GW said that he found the project exciting and will deliver a lot of what the Implementation Plan intends on delivering. It's a five year plan, but the project is only for two years, after two years the project will be able to review its strengths and weaknesses.
9. GW explained that Farming Connect, LANTRA and NADIS have put programmes together on animal health and welfare. He went on to explain that they are giving the training via the veterinary practices to the framers. There are currently 11 or 12 modules being rolled out. GW said he went to one to see how they are delivered. The Welsh Government has asked NARDIS to provide a module on AMR which they are currently working on. IL commented that the proposal by Lantra will be good to have cooperation with. PG asked what incentives farmers in Wales would have to sign up to these modules. WE said that he felt that there would be an appetite to do this amongst the younger farming community in particular. GW answered by referring to the feedback he received from the delivery body because he said he was aware that there have been really good turnout rates, more than expected, to these modules so far. GW added that it was better coming from the practitioners because it's good for them to directly give advice and training to farmers who particularly need it. However, when the AMR module is rolled out, data will be collected on how to improve attendance and method if needed.
10. GW said that the group should be aware of the data being collected by HDB/HCC which will be relevant and may invite them to future meetings.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation from WLBP Iestyn Jones (IJ) & Llyr Lewis (LIL)

11. GW welcomed IJ and LIL and they gave introductions.
12. IJ began presenting by giving a further explanation of who WLBP are and what their work is in relation to their different schemes.
13. IJ found that since the initial training, it is considered an issue for Farmers to have more than one vet prescribing medicine. GW said that this may be an issue to bring up in the future.
14. LIL moved on to give a detailed explanation of the WLBP's online tool for the use of recording medicine use by farmers.
15. PG asked what feedback they have received on how easy it is to use the online tool and LIL explained that it is designed to be used as easily as possible. They have been taking comments from farmers when helping them to set the app up to make improvements to it.
16. IJ and LIL remained for the rest of the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Wales Implementation Plan – Delivery Options (All)

17. ES thanked everyone who returned feedback on the table circulated in advance of the meeting to begin capturing possible delivery options. The objectives have been taken from the five year Implementation Plan for Wales.
18. ST explained to the deliver group that the objectives of the implementation plan needed to be reflected in the plans of any deliverable goals. This information could then be used to develop a delivery approach and/or impact assessments etc. as required.
19. GW suggested to go through the work row by row. ES began by addressing the first objective and the number of possible delivery options. WE expressed the importance of vaccination in order to prevent infectious disease would like to see support for farmers on vaccination plans.
20. IJ gave a comprehensive explanation of how an approach to biosecurity and husbandry should be holistic, and cautioned against seeing specific measures like vaccination as ‘magic bullets’ because, for instance, animals need to be fit and healthy through optimum nutrition and hygiene in order for the vaccines to work, and there are still many factors to consider when deciding to vaccinate and for what, for which active dialogue with the farmer’s veterinarian is paramount. WE agreed that a comprehensive biosecurity plan is vital in reducing the need for an unintentional exposure to antimicrobials.
21. GW suggested adding AMR courses that are given to vets. Educating farmers and vets alike in correct antibiotic use and prescription. Pushing this education through Young Farmers Club/Farming Unions was suggested by IL.
22. ES addressed the second objective, “Optimising use of antimicrobials in animals,” and asked the group what they viewed as the issues and problems in giving antibiotics. RS said that one of the issues is having vets who are knowledgeable on the subject. The group were in agreement that a course for veterinary practitioners on correct antibiotic use or selection of use would be practical. The delivery group agreed to consider taking this forward.
23. On minimising the spread of AMR through the environment, water was the main concern ES told the delivery group. There is a knowledge gap and this would be a link to public health concerns due to contamination spreading in the environment. EW explained that it is possible to encourage water suppliers to assist. Many people in Wales have their own private water supply. We should ask the water sector what programmes and monitoring can we put in to secure the collection of data that is needed. GW suggested that the delivery group would need collaborative work with the other UK administrations and expertise to search what the AMR organisms in water supplies could be doing to the environment. Collaboration with the Universities of Warwick and Bristol could be beneficial according to IL. GW suggested that water sourcing should be the top priority when addressing the environmental side of the spread of AMR in Wales.
24. WE suggested after general agreement to encourage more to be done on tackling the spread of AMR on a farming level. EW said that making links and connections with research programmes like with G24 as well as to see what the water companies are doing in the water industry to prevent this.
ACTION001: Suggested that an industry rep should be invited to a future meeting. GW also suggested going to them and reporting back by the next meeting.

25. It was acknowledged that there is currently a gap where there are not many things happening when it comes to monitoring AMR use with companion animals.
26. **ACTION002:** Approach the Corporate Veterinary Companies. GW would get in touch with AS to make sure that she's involved in this approach.

Agenda Item 5: WAAW/EAAD – Ideas for Action that Could Be Taken During the Week (All)

27. CC explained that last year PHW payed for a poster campaign and leaflets which coordinate with the PHE. The Welsh Government went to agricultural colleges and the Minister signed up as antibiotic guardian as part of both WAAW and EAAD.
28. PG suggested to have the Minister or the CVO visit a farm which has transformed the way it has changed its use of antibiotic use and made a success of it. It should be followed by organised tweets and posts.
29. GW said that he was happy for people to contact ST to give any further ideas they may have about what to do for WAAW/EAAD 2019.
30. GW said that Wales is the only administration that hasn't had a One Health AMR conference yet and suggested holding one in the near future. This would most likely be achieved by collaboration with PHW. **ACTION003:** CC to consider approaching PHW.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

31. The delivery group agreed to hold the next meeting on the 3rd December 2019.
32. 'Sustainable Farming and Our Land' consultation is closing on the 30th October. The group agreed to draft a response before the deadline.
33. **ACTION004:** IJ offered to draft a response on behalf for the group for the Welsh Government's consideration.