

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

**Minutes of the meeting held in Caerdydd 2, CP2, Welsh Government Building, Cardiff on 3rd
December 2019**

Present at Meeting

Paul Green (PG)	Rhian Pound-McCarthy (RPM)
Amelia Stevens (AS)	Wyn Evans (WE)
Eleri Davies (ED)	Rob Smith (RS)
Ifan Lloyd (IL)	Christianne Glossop (CG)
Ann Davies (AD)	Sian Timms (ST)
Tony Harrington (TH)	Marc Alford-Evans (MAE) – Secretariat Support
Ian Jones (IJ)	

Apologies

Robin Howe (RH)	Gavin Watkins (GW)
Marion Lyons (ML)	Gareth Thomas (GT)

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

1. PG opened the Delivery Group's third meeting.
2. Told DG members to hand over any amendments to the minutes of the last meeting to the secretariat before the end of the day.
3. ST read out the outstanding actions for the delivery group.

Agenda Item 2: Delivery Projects (Group Discussion)

4. **Reducing the need for an unintentional exposure to antibiotics** - IJ gave the group an update on the activities since the last DG meeting. He, RS, AS and IL met with GW and ST to discuss how to produce a document to provide advice on prescribing antibiotics for animals in Wales. They agreed to focus on farm animals and will hopefully move on to small equines and companion animals. They recognised that education is the main issue with tackling the AMR in the future in Wales. The method of delivery with partners was discussed. Veterinary Delivery Partners in Wales were considered in the meeting because they have money and the scientific research. IJ emphasized that he felt that there was a danger that it might become too scientific when it should be more practical. AS then continued by mentioning that there was consideration of creating an app. It would make it easy to use and attractive to new graduates. They can mirror similar apps. IL also mentioned that there are possible guidelines from other organisations like BVA/BSA that could be mirrored. It had to be clear and practical for practitioners "on the ground." CG suggested that maybe engaging with BCVA/BEVA etc. to discuss any possible work that they are doing on the

same topic. RS said he isn't aware of any other body doing anything similar so far.

5. PG said that he felt that a few questions have been risen by this discussion. Who would own any such guidance? CG said that getting evidence specific examples from Wales would be good. WE added that using Farming Connect and presenting any advice through education would be far more positive when approaching Farmers.
6. PG recommended that one of the potential steps forward would be to scope out what the diseases are. Also, who would be responsible for this and who will carry it forward. Welsh vet sector? Question for the Welsh Government is what resources we have to support this work on drafting and working out the technicalities. CG recognised this but said again that she doesn't think it should be a WG piece of work. Eleri Davies explained the All Wales strategy group that will put together Wales only advice. She also explained the app that all the Health Boards use "Micro Guide App." It is a platform for the information of this.
7. **ACTION:** WG Draw up a plan to cover the elements of who should be given responsibility and what resources and funding could be made available for a potential project to develop antibiotic prescribing guidance. Ready for the next meeting if not before.
8. RDP Projects – Slide with graphic provided to the group. CG explained the projects and the connections between them. PG asked if there was any headway on making progress towards BVD eradication. IL updating on Iechyd Da project. 11,000 – 12,000 cattle herds. Each has an annual TB test and each one will have a young stock sample taken. Plan to screen 90% of herds in Wales over a five year period. WE emphasised partnership working and said that some farmers don't feel like they're been shown the right signals for working together in preventing the movement of effected cattle. RS said the auctioneers need to have more reassurance when buying in the future. IL said that there is a similar issue when it comes to TB as well.
9. Farm level measurement of Antibiotic Usage. – ST explained that GW asked to include this to update the group on the work done. **ACTION:** GW to consider developing a paper to present full proposals at the next meeting. ST asked the group to confirm surveillance work already happening. IL said that Hafren might be able to work on this to be able to view a possible trend. WE asked if farmers will be using the WLBP app to record their medicines and IJ confirmed that they are. Hopefully they will be able to publish their data in January and PG when will they be able to report their data? IJ said it would be in six months.
10. PG said that there are data on companion animals already being published by Scotland's AMR report drawn from SAVSNET. PG confirmed that it draws its data from practice management software.
11. **Action:** CVO to speak to the BVA asking to consider the companion animal aspects and what guidance and advice is being provided in relation to prescribing guidance of antibiotics – addressing concerns around awareness in this sector.

12. Arwain Vet Cymru – (RS) Scheme was launched on EAAD and there was media coverage. Said that the surveying and training with the practises has been mentioned. A working group meeting with members of practices occurred on the 19th November to discuss the training they would like and the possible conditions they would like to have in the future in Wales. Giving practical solutions was an important part of the feedback on possible training materials. Getting Farming Connect funding to secure it has presented some issues but is eager to get as many big practices in Wales to join up on the master of medicines courses. It's moving along slowly but no big issues have come up yet. PG asked when the next big milestone is. RS said that when Gwen Smith returns to work next month, the next crucial point will be when they send out the letters. RS has had a number of practices contact him since the article was published. AD asked if it's similar to what Farming Connect have already published. He said that this project will emphasise that prevention is better than cure. There will be a launch and notification email but at some point next year.
13. Action: Consider developing a communication strategy for the DG and AMR activities. This is already covered in the OCVO communications plan, but consider separating out.
14. Stronger Laboratory Capacity and Surveillance of AMR in Animals – Eleri Davies shared a paper and introduced it to the Delivery Group. One Health group should make sure that all One Health approach is the same for the other DAs. This is for the group's consideration and need to feedback. CG said that she knows that vet medicines isn't a devolved matter but there is a big interest in this. She feels that someone should be going. It should be either WG or another group member. ST said that GW is going to possibly be attending the workshop. PG said that the five year action plan is still in its early stages. Said that GW has been taking much interest with APHA. IJ asked what the purpose of the workshop is. It's supposed to be a part of the way we survey antibiotic usage.
15. AS said that many of the labs that will be carrying out sampling activities will be in England and in private labs. PG said that there is an ambition to work with the private labs sector to get access to surveillance data.
16. AMR Surveillance Power Point – ST explained that the intention of the slides are to bring about discussion in the group. ST ran through the four main ways of surveying AMR. EW did say that the whole Wales approach is currently being put together. Going through the four points on each slide. ED commented that the proposals from the slides are really broad and that there needs to be a clear range of what types of disease. E.g. like diarrhoea. As a result of this, there is a danger that there would be too much data collected. PG explained that the AMR projects he runs doesn't run on the diseases that are listed. CG said that she felt that there needed to be a better understanding of what causes certain diseases - there is too much detail, looking at the topics covered in the slides. Most of these would need to have antibiotics to treat at the moment currently. IJ said that you could add BVD on the second table. Action: GW to consider further and re-present to the group at its next meeting. Would need to consider historical data held by APHA. Would there be an epi study before any surveillance

programme begun? GW to consider working with the VMD as they hold the UK budget for surveillance, what data are they collecting etc. Also, narrow down any suggestions to a top ten list of diseases, causes and bacteria.

17. WAAW/EAAD update – CG gave an update of her and Frank’s activities over the week. Mainly her visit to Sheppard’s Pharmacy and Farm First Vet practice. She has voiced her aim to give a briefing to AMs as well as the Minister on AMR. The WG Permanent Secretary was interested in the senior leaders AMR presentation. ST said that in March we’d take feedback and suggestions for 2020 WAAW. ED and RS agreed that more can be done next time as well as have a better arrangement between us and public health. ED raised World Hand Hygiene day that is being held on the 15 May. PG asked what hand hygiene can be used for in the animal sector. AS emphasized hand washing when treating animals in the Vet Sector. ED clarified that the World Health Hand Hygiene initiative is about the wider message of reducing the burden of infection so the work of the group includes this. Action: consider what promotional activities can be put in place to support this – focus on biosecurity – don’t forget to wash your hands between farms/animals etc.

Agenda Item 4: Environmental Impacts of AMR (TH)

18. TH begun by explaining Dŵr Cymru’s approach on an international level in the coming years. The primary purpose is to protect public health. They recognise that AMR being unchecked will affect public health. Quality of water being transformed since the early 1990s. AMR is a micropollutant that is being discussed at a European level because the controls derive from that legislative level. They are working up stream to control things and AMR is a good example. Once it is in the water supply then it’s in the environment. University of Bangor and South Wales University are helping. He highlighted the risk of AMR being in manure. First project – We need to understand the state of the material when bio solids are recycled to land. Second project – Wye Valley appointment, Dŵr Cymru supporting funding. There is possible outcome where the sewage system will be making AMR thrive and cause issues. Indirect as well as direct effects can cause more AMR bacteria. They are eager to be a part of the One Health approach as they agree that this is the best approach.
19. IJ - how concerned is Dŵr Cymru with AMR organisms spreading through the environment? Their role is to find out that information to inform government.
20. PG asked when the review will be published. It will be published in spring next year. Action: TH offered invitations to the conference, to feedback on the research. Information to be shared by the secretariat.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

21. How does the group want to interact with the rumour Target Task Force 2? IL brought this up – WE believed that feeding in was important due to there being common themes to feed into. PG said that if members of the group have a specific interest then do so. IJ said he was happy to confirm that there were good results coming out of the group. Action: Invite a member of the task force to the DG meeting in March.
22. The Delivery Group agreed to create a doodle poll for the next three meetings.