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**Minutes of the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse (APoSM) Main
Panel Meeting
Monday 17th September 2018 (11:00pm – 14:00pm)
Cydwelli 1, Cathays Park, Cardiff**

Attendees

Chair

Caroline Phipps (CP)

Members

Rosemary Allgeier (RA)

Professor Philip Routledge (PR)

Sergeant Shaun Conway (SC) (representing ACC Rhiannon Kirk)

Assistant Police Liaison Officer Steve Thomas (ST)

Welsh Government Officials

REDACTED (REDACTED)

REDACTED (REDACTED)

REDACTED (REDACTED)

Apologies

Members

Dr Julia Lewis (JL)

Conflicts of interest - None declared

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and apologies were noted. Members were informed that Professor Simon Moore had resigned from his role as ‘Alcohol’ member on the panel. The Chair formally thanked Professor Simon Moore for his contribution to the Panel.

The Chair and REDACTED advised that due to the wider work ongoing across the Welsh Government in relation to a review of stakeholder and advisory boards the undertaking of any full public appointment exercises had been postponed. However it was reiterated that it is possible to ‘co-opt’ individuals onto sub-groups where a specific need has been identified.

The Chair advised members that the main purpose of the meeting was to:

- To receive an update and sign off the Prescription only Medicines (PoMs) report,
- To receive an update on the progress of the ‘Minimum Unit Pricing’ sub-group,

The Chair encouraged full, frank and open discussions and reminded members of the principle of collective responsibility.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of Last Meeting, update on actions and Matters Arising

The Panel agreed that the minutes recorded from the previous meeting that was held on 16th April 2018 were a true and accurate record.

In relation to action point 5 of the previous minutes, the Chair requested that the secretariat discuss with colleagues in the Welsh Government's Pharmacy & Prescribing team the issue of the Medicinal use of Cannabis and how APoSM could possibly contribute to this agenda.

In relation to action point 9 of the previous minutes, the Chair explained that the Checkpoint Pilot in Durham is a new Programme which aims to reduce the number of victims of crime as a result of drug and/or alcohol misuse and agreed to provide members with links to the relevant research.

The panel agreed that there were no matters arising.

Action Point 1	Secretariat to contact Pharmacy & Prescribing Team in relation to APoSM possibly looking into the Medicinal use of Cannabis.
Action Point 2	Chair to send members links to relevant research relating to the Checkpoint Pilot in Durham.

Agenda Item 3 – Welsh Government Update

REDACTED stated that it will likely be a further year before implementation of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) for Alcohol Act, and during this time period officials will be working to produce accompanying guidance, whilst working closely with stakeholders to engage as early as possible in order to reduce any impact this may have on individuals.

Officials will also be going to consultation where individuals and organisations will have the opportunity to state their opinion and views on the preferred level of minimum unit price.

REDACTED stated that the APoSM MUP Sub-group was researching the risk of people 'switching' to other substances as a result of the implementation of MUP. The sub-group concluded in a letter to the Cabinet Secretary that there is currently no evidence available in relation to this. REDACTED stated that this was an issue raised by the Health Sport and Social Care Committee during the scrutiny process and in response the Welsh Government is issuing a tender to undertake detailed research on behalf of the Welsh Government.

REDACTED stated that the HIW report published in July 2018 contained a total 34 recommendations, a number of the recommendations are for Area Planning Boards, with some for Service Providers and Welsh Government.

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REDACTED also stated that after various discussions in relation to the future of the All Wales Schools Programme, funding has been agreed in order for the programme to continue into 2019-20.

Agenda Item 4 – Update and discussion on the Public Health Wales: Minimum Unit Price Bill (MUP) Sub-group

The Chair provided an update of the purpose of the sub-group and explained that the sub-group was formed in order to explore evidence of people with alcohol problems ‘switching’ to other substances as a result of the implementation of MUP.

The sub-group had planned to submit a report on the evidence to the Cabinet Secretary. However, as a result of limited evidence available regarding the risk of ‘switching’, a letter was issued instead of the proposed report. The letter stated that there is very little evidence and that the Panel recommend that Welsh Government commission further research in this area.

Agenda Item 5 – Update and sign off of the Prescription only Medicines (PoMs) Report

The Chair thanked JL for the huge amount of work and personal time that had gone into producing the re-write of the PoMs report. The Chair provided members with some background and explained how the report had arrived to this stage which had also involved significant work by members of the APoSM PoMs sub-group.

The Chair referred members to the PoMs report that was circulated ahead of the meeting and asked members to share any issues or concerns they may have with the report before the Panel obtain sign off.

RA stated that before the report is published, the report should follow the same style as previous APoSM reports and also include the APoSM logo. The Secretariat agreed to assist with formatting and publication of the report.

Panel members unanimously agreed to sign off the report on ‘Prescription only Medicines’.

The Chair stated that a press release should be issued around the publication of the report once it had been formally submitted to the Cabinet Secretary. PR also agreed to share the report, once published, with colleagues at the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) given their role in providing advice on medicines management and prescribing to Welsh Government.

Action Point 3	Secretariat to assist with formatting of the PoMs report and include APoSM logo and arrange press release following publication of the report.
Action Point 4	PR to share copy of PoMs report, once published, with colleagues at the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

	(AWMSG).
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Agenda Item 6 - Lunch

Agenda Item 7 - Provide feedback from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)

The Chair updated panel members on the activities of ACMD and referred members to the written update that was provided at the meeting, particularly in relation to the medicinal use of Cannabis. The Chair suggested that this could be an area that APoSM could support and potentially work along side ACMD but from a Welsh perspective.

The Chair stated that an ACMD update should be provided for every APoSM Main Panel meeting and that she would ensure that members are informed of future ACMD evidence gathering days, should they wish to attend.

Action Point 5	Secretariat to ensure written updates from ACMD are requested for every APoSM Main Panel meeting.
Action Point 6	Chair to ensure that APoSM Main Panel members are informed of future ACMD evidence gathering days.

Agenda Item 8 - Discuss recommendations contained in HIW report 'Review of Substance Misuse Services in Wales' and identify some possible pieces of work

The Chair referred members to the HIW report '*Review of Substance Misuse Services in Wales*' and asked members to consider the recommendations and whether there were any that APoSM could possibly take forward.

REDACTED advised that the Welsh Government would be responding to the report and recommendations as a whole and advised that the Chair discuss any possible pieces of work with the Head of Substance Misuse Delivery within Welsh Government. The Chair agreed to arrange a meeting with the Head of Substance Misuse Delivery and report back to members at the next main panel meeting.

Action Point 7	Chair to arrange meeting with the Head of Substance Misuse Delivery to discuss the HIW report and feedback to members at the next main panel meeting.
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Agenda Item 9 - Discuss potential work plan activities

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The Chair advised members that the Welsh Government's substance misuse annual report and also the Public Health Wales Drug Related Deaths 2017 data report were due to be published in the near future. The Chair asked members to review both reports and consider/identify any potential work streams for the panel.

Action Point 8	Main Panel members to consider Welsh Government's substance misuse annual report and also the Public Health Wales Drug Related Deaths 2017 data report when published.
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Agenda Item 10 - Any Other Business

SC requested that a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Panel be shared with ACC Rhiannon Kirk.

Action Point 9	Secretariat to share Terms of Reference with ACC Rhiannon Kirk.
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Agenda Item 11 – Dates of future meetings

The Secretariat agreed to canvas dates for the next APoSM Main Panel meeting in December.

Action Point 10	Secretariat to canvas dates for Main Panel meeting in December 2018.
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Agenda Item 12 – Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked members for attending.

Action Point Summary

Action Point 1	Secretariat to contact Pharmacy & Prescribing Team in relation to APoSM possibly looking into the Medicinal use of Cannabis.
Action Point 2	Chair to send members links to relevant research relating to the Checkpoint Pilot in Durham.
Action Point 3	Secretariat to assist with formatting of the PoMs report and include APoSM logo and arrange press release following publication of the report.
Action Point 4	PR to share copy of PoMs report, once published, with colleagues at the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).
Action Point 5	Secretariat to ensure written updates from ACMD are requested for every APoSM Main Panel meeting
Action Point 6	Chair to ensure that APoSM Main Panel members are informed of future ACMD evidence gathering days.
Action Point 7	Chair to arrange meeting with the Head of Substance Misuse Delivery to discuss the HIW report and feedback to members at the next main panel meeting.
Action Point 8	Main Panel members to consider Welsh Government's substance misuse annual report and also the Public Health Wales Drug Related Deaths 2017 data report when published.
Action Point 9	Secretariat to share Terms of Reference with ACC Rhiannon Kirk.
Action Point 10	Secretariat to canvas dates for Main Panel meeting in December 2018.