

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

Minutes of the meeting held in Bute Park Education Centre, Cardiff on 13th May 2019

Present at Meeting

Gavin Watkins (GW)	Gareth Thomas (GT)
Estevao Simoes (ES)	Paul Green (PG)
Christianne Glossop (CG)	Amelia Stevens (AS)
Marion Lyons (ML)	Robin Howe (RH)
Robert Smith (RS)	Sian Timms (ST) - Secretariat
Ian Jones (IJ)	Marc Alford-Evans (MAE) - Secretariat
Ifan Lloyd (IL)	

Apologies

Eifiona Williams (EW)
Catherine Cody (CC)

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions (GW)

1. GW welcomed all the group members and secretariat support that were present.
2. GW explained that the prime responsibility of the group is to give direction for the UK wide policy on preventing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Wales and to make it as effective as possible.
3. GW asked the group to aim for the AMR in Animals and the Environment: Five Year Implementation plan to be published by the 15th July 2019.

Agenda Item 2: Setting the Scene – AMR globally and at the UK level (PG)

4. PG gave an overview how AMR is being tackled on both an international and UK level. AMR is not a new threat to the welfare of animals, humans and the environment. PG stressed that AMR is a global problem and that the UK Government has made this a priority.
5. The VMD has established an international reference centre on AMR, with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) to support capacity building in lower and middle income countries in South East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

6. The UK Government's latest strategy is set out in the 20 Year Vision and Five Year National Action Plan which was published in January 2019. Developing our knowledge and understanding of the issue and improving biosecurity, disease prevention and animal husbandry would be key in tackling AMR in the future.
7. IL questioned if the delivery groups focus should be on antibiotics or antimicrobials. AS also questioned disinfectants and their role?

Agenda Item 3: Setting the Scene – AMR in Wales, the five W's (Who, What, When, Where and Why) (GW)

8. GW explained why we've set-up a Welsh delivery group and why a Welsh implementation plan. ML explained the approach taken in human health – moving to annual ambition rather than the five year approach. ML also explained how the HCAI board works.
9. GW told the group that a draft of the AMR in Animals and Environment Five Year Implementation plan had already been signed and agreed by the Minister and the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). If any members wanted to make changes then they were asked to submit their requests before the 15th July.

Agenda Item 4: The Animal and Environment AMR Implementation Plan for Wales (ES)

10. ES gave a slideshow presentation about the AMR Implementation Plan in Wales. He explained that the draft implementation plan had 5 components that are in line with the UK Action Plan. They were selected on being appropriate to Wales' strengths instead of following the priorities of the UK Action Plan.
11. PG raised the issue of how to measure the effectiveness of the components. GW agreed that the access to hard data to measure 'wellness' or 'improvement' could be difficult for the group.
12. ES moved on to the optimising use of Antimicrobials in animals. GW asked the group on their thoughts on independent guidance being given to the group on prescribing for animals. AS suggested a centralised system which mirrors one that already exists.

Agenda Item 5: The Animal and Environment AMR Delivery Board for Wales – Agree the Terms of reference and membership, What it would like to achieve, Agree the Animal and Environment Implementation Plan for Wales, Annual priorities arising from the Plan and Ways of Working. (Group Discussion)

13. ES began the group discussion by suggesting methods of tracking the use of antibiotics in farm animals in Wales.
14. The group discussed how best to implement any new standards they recommend in the future. IJ voiced concern over agricultural workers being able to use new methods introduced to them that they are unfamiliar with. GT suggested that the group would need to focus on recommending ways to encourage the use of antibiotics when needed by giving better and clear information to justify its use when it is needed. ML voiced her concern of antibiotic medicine being bought online to be used which would undermine any framework that tracks antibiotic use in farmers. ML suggested that there should be only one pathway and group members agreed.

15. How to we ensure engagement with companion animal and equine vets? Medics have prescribing advisors who go out and speak with GPs.
16. GW stated that as a group we can identify knowledge gaps as we progress, we don't have to limit ourselves to available data. Some surveillance is mandatory, but does it meet our current objectives. Also, are we measuring the appropriate bugs/drug combinations, and diseases?
17. GW suggested that a code of conduct could be drawn from Vets and mainly for the use of farm animals. IJ recommended that this should be incorporated into a new type of course on assisting farmers to implement the correct use of antibiotics in their livestock. IJ claimed that farmers receiving expert guidance on this would achieve the effective use of antibiotics by encouraging responsible use that is needed to tackle AMR in animals and the environment. GT agreed that the way forward is to educate farmers. IL claimed that already the attitude of many farmers on approaching this has already changed. GW agreed.

Agenda Item 6: Next Steps

18. The members of the group were asked to read both the terms of reference and the draft Implementation Plan and submit any changes or recommendations that they had as soon as possible.
19. IJ recommended that the term of reference be clearer on the group's objectives. GW explained that it had been previously discussed but felt that presenting goals may limit the implementation group's work before even beginning.
20. GW proposed that meetings come each quarter. ES asked for clarification on how will decisions be made by the group in the future and GW explained that every recommendation would be made by consensus.
21. ST told the group that arrangements have already been put together for the Minister to release a statement to the press on the creation of the implementation group and that the group has already held its first meeting. This would be followed by arranged tweets to be published on the Minister's and the CVO's twitter pages. The minister's Twitter profile will lead readers to her statement and the Chief Veterinary Officer's tweet will include a link to the group's information page on the Welsh Government's website. She reminded the group that the implementation plan is to be published on the 15 July which is one week before the Royal Welsh Show. There is currently ongoing work being done to organise a workshop on the subject of AMR in animals which ST told members were welcome to volunteer to be guest speakers at the event.
22. GW suggested that in future meetings farmers nominated by the Welsh farming Unions should be invited to contribute to discussions.
23. CG suggested that the group can look into pathways that may already have been put together in other countries that are implementing containment plans for AMR in animals and the environment.

Agenda Item 7: AOB – Date of next meeting (GW)

24. The group discussed when to meet next. A doodle poll will be circulated to all members to choose the next best available date in August 2019.

Agenda Item 8: Close and Thanks (CG)

25. CG thanked all the members for being present and accepting to be a part of the implementation group. She expressed her and the Minister's excitement on the formation of the group and their reflection all day on the work of the implementation group that will contribute to the goals of the Animal Health and Welfare Framework.