



Eich llais chi mewn
iechyd a gofal

Your voice in health
and social care

Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23

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Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report and Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government Accounts Direction and the 2022-23 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FreM). The Accounts Direction for 2022/23 included reduced reporting and disclosure requirements reflecting that Llais was not operational in 2022/23.

Performance Report

Overview

The performance overview sets out that the key purpose for the Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care Board (known operational as Llais Board and referred to in this document as Llais Board) in 2022/23 was the establishment of Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care, Wales (known operationally as Llais – your voice in health and social care and referred to in this document as Llais).

Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care, Wales

The establishment of the Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care, Wales was led and funded by the Welsh Government.

Welsh Government formed the Citizen Voice Body (CVB) Implementation Programme (referred to in this document as ‘the programme’) to take forward the establishment of Llais. Oversight of the programme was via the CVB

Implementation Board. The Implementation Board was chaired by the programme's Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), Professor Chris Jones.

Whilst the Senior Responsible Officer was responsible for the establishment of the new body, the day-to-day management of the programme was delegated to the Head of the CVB Implementation Programme Team, and supported by the various workstreams.

These workstreams were chaired by Welsh Government Directors comprised of Welsh Government policy leads and other interested parties. Their role was to provide expert advice, assurance and oversight of the establishment of the organisation's core functions and products to ensure Llais could become fully operational on 1 April 2023.

Llais, was legally established in April 2022 following commencement order no.1 of the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 (referred to in this document as the 'Act'). Under the Act Llais was created as a Welsh Government Sponsored Body (WGSB). Llais became operational on the 1 April 2023 when all staff, assets, liabilities (contracts) were transferred from Powys Teaching Health Board and Welsh Ministers (who respectively hosted and provided legal contracting) to Llais on behalf of the former Community Health Councils in Wales and the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales.

The Llais Board was formally established in October 2022 following the appointment of its Chair, Deputy Chair, 6 other non-executive members (NEMs) and its Interim Chief Executive. The Board was established ahead of the body becoming operational to take certain key decisions in principle relating to the

establishment of Llais, this included decisions that determined how the body was constituted.

Between October 2022 and 1 April 2023, formal Board meetings were held on a monthly basis. At its first meeting in public on 28 April 2023, the Llais Board formally ratified all decisions taken during the October 2022 to March 2023 establishment period.

The Welsh Government recognised that the Llais Board had a defined but restricted role during the establishment period up to 31 March 2023 and, in view of the limited powers that were available to Llais during that period, the Llais Board and CVB Implementation Board ran in parallel and worked together to establish the body.

While Llais Board had a defined but restricted role during the establishment period up to 31 March 2023 it focused on developing and publishing, in early April 2023, its initial priorities in “Our 100 day plan”. From 1 April 2023 Llais undertook a public engagement exercise listening to people and their representatives living and working for our communities across Wales on Llais's strategic vision, mission, values and ways of working.

During the establishment phase Professor Chris Jones, SRO was ultimately responsible for decisions taken as part of the programme, including where those decisions had financial implication for 2022-23, and had delegated Accounting Officer responsibilities for the period up to 31 March 2023.

The Llais Board was party to all relevant and appropriate establishment programme decisions from October 2022, through the programme governance mechanisms. The Llais Board was asked to take decisions in principle to ensure strategic alignment where decisions impacted how the organisation was constituted and where decisions impacted future budget years.

The Act states that the Chief Executive of Llais is the Accounting Officer for the organisation. During the period of establishment (April 2022 – March 2023) all decisions, including spend decisions, were made within the establishment programme and therefore the SRO remained responsible for decision making.

Professor Chris Jones

Senior Responsible Officer, CVB Implementation Board

Accounting Officer, Llais

Date : 22 November 2023

Alyson Thomas,

Chief Executive, Accounting Officer, Llais (from 1 April 2023)

Date : 22 November 2023

Accountability Report

Corporate Governance Report

Directors Report

Schedule 1 of Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 sets out Board membership as:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- at least 6, but not more than 8, Non Executive Members
- Chief Executive

Board Membership

Member	Position	Term of Office
Medwin Hughes	Chair	1 April 2022 – 31 March 2026
Alyson Thomas	Interim Chief Executive	Appointed 3 October 2022
Grace Quantock	Deputy Chair	6 June 2022 – 5 June 2025
Bamidele Adenipekun	Non Executive Member	1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026
Barbara Harrington	Non Executive Member	1 July 2022- 30 June 2024
Jack Evershed	Non Executive Member	1 July 2022- 30 June 2024
Jason Smith	Non Executive Member	1 July 2022- 30 June 2024
Karen Lewis	Non Executive Member	1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026
Rajan Madhok	Non Executive Member	1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026

With effect from 1 April 2023 Alyson Thomas appointed as permanent Chief Executive and Accounting Officer for Llais.

As at 31 March 2023, the Board had a gender balance of 55.5% (5) female, 44.5% (4) male, 22.2% (2) members were from a Black and Ethnic Minority background, 11% (1) declared a disability.

Declaration of Interest

The Board members declaration of interest log is presented and updated at every formal Board meeting. This meets the requirements set out in the Llais Standards of Behaviour Policy. The Policy sets out the arrangements in place to manage declarations of interests, gifts, hospitality, honoraria and sponsorship, and sets out expectations and provides supporting guidance to all staff, volunteers and non-executive members.

Board member	Interests	
	Organisation	Position
Medwin Hughes (Chair)	University of Wales and University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Vice-Chancellor
	The Tidal Lagoon Academy LTD	Director
	Academy of Sinology UK	Director
	University of Wales Trinity Saint David Investments Ltd	Director
	The Trinity St David Trust	Director
	Welsh American Academy Enterprises Ltd	Director
	Eclectica Drindod Ltd	Director
	Trinity University College (formerly TCCF)	Director and Trustee of TUC Charity
	The International Foundation for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue	Director
	Gwasg Gregynog	Director and Trustee of the Charity
	Awen Wales Ltd	Director

	University of Wales: Innovations Centre Ltd	Director
	University of Wales Charity	Trustee
	Cwlwm Monduli	Trustee
	Body of Church in Wales	Chair and Representative
	Welsh National OPERA Cenedlaethol Cymru	Trustee
Grace Quantock (Deputy Chair)	Wye Valley NHS Trust	Non-Executive
	Social Care Wales	Non-Executive Board member and chair of Regulation & Standards Committee
	Trailblazing Wellness: Coaching and Consultancy	Founder and Director
	UK Council for Psychotherapists	Accredited Psychotherapeutic Counsellor
	Arts Council for Wales	Associate
	University of South Wales	Lecturer in Faculty of Education and Life Sciences on the Children & Adolescent Mental Health MA
	Welsh Government	Senior Independent Panel Member
	Ministry of Justice	Independent Panel Member
Bamidele Adenipekun (Non-Executive)	Inspired to Soar Ltd	Director
	Maggie's Cancer Support Centres	Ambassador
	Practice Solutions Limited undertaking projects on improving social care, health and public services	Associate
	Delivering workshops and creating bespoke content tackling health inequities - Health Education and Improvement Wales, Velindre NHS Trust, Macmillan	Registered supplier

	Health Education England	Advising on service – Aforementioned
	Cardiff University - Health and Visiting	Patient and public involvement
	Health inequities and workplace wellbeing for private and public bodies	Consulting
Barbara Harrington (Non-Executive)	None	
Jack Evershed (Non-Executive)	Hybu Cig Cymru	Non-Executive Member
	Evershed & Co	Partner
	Borth Royal National Lifeboat Institution	Chair
Jason Smith (Non-Executive)	Cymorth Cymru	Trustee
	Taff Housing	Non-Executive
	Pobl	Assistant Director of Support
Karen Lewis (Non-Executive)	None	
Rajan Madhok (Non-Executive)	Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Non-Executive
	Friends of Clwydian and Dee Valley, AONB	Trustee
	Canolfan Gerdd Williams Mathias	Trustee
	Peoples-praxis	Trustee
	University of Salford	Honorary Professor
	Indian Institute of Public Health, Shillong, India	Adjunct Faculty
	RamaReflections	Director
Alyson Thomas (Executive member)	None	

Members' attendance at Board

The Llais Board was formally constituted in October 2022 following the appointment of its Interim Chief Executive.

Between October and the 31 March 2023, 6 formal Board meetings were held. The first meeting took place over two days and will be considered as separate sessions for the purpose of reporting on the Board members attendance.

Members attendance at Board meetings		
Number of meetings held between October 2022- March 2023: 7		
Member	Position	Attendance at Board meetings
Medwin Hughes	Chair	7
Alyson Thomas	Interim Chief Executive	7
Grace Quantock	Deputy Chair	5
Bamidele Adenipekun	Non Executive Member	7
Barbara Harrington	Non Executive Member	7
Jack Evershed	Non Executive Member	7
Jason Smith	Non Executive Member	6
Karen Lewis	Non Executive Member	7
Rajan Madhok	Non Executive Member	5

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

As required by the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020, I, as Accounting Officer, have prepared, for each financial year, an annual report and statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Directions issued by HM Treasury and Welsh Ministers, these documents are fair, balanced and understandable.

The accounts are prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at the year-end and of the net expenditure, financial position, cash flows and changes in taxpayers' equity for the financial year then ended. The annual report is fair, balanced and understandable.

In preparing the accounts, I am required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular:

- observe the Accounts Directions, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis; and
- confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and

Accounts and the judgements required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

I have been appointed by the Director General, Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government, as Accounting Officer of Llais for the period to 31 March 2023. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer include responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records, and for Llais' assets as set out in the memorandum - 'Managing Public Money' - published by HM Treasury, and 'Managing Welsh Public Money', published by the Welsh Government.

As the Accounting Officer, I have taken all steps that I should to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Audit Wales' auditors are aware of this information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

Professor Chris Jones

Senior Responsible Officer, CVB Implementation Board

Accounting Officer, Llais

Date : 22 November 2023

Governance Statement

The CVB Establishment Programme formed part of the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 Implementation Programme alongside projects to implement the duties of quality and candour and establish statutory vice chairs in NHS Trusts.

Within the wider programme, the CVB Establishment Programme was overseen by the CVB Implementation Board. The Implementation Board had broad membership from stakeholders including senior Community Health Council staff and board member and then CVB board representatives as they were appointed, principally the CVB Board chair.

Professor Chris Jones was the SRO for the Act Implementation Programme and provided assurance on delivery to the Strategic Oversight Board (SOB). The project to implement the duties of quality and candour had a separate Implementation Board but in recognition of the scale and complexity of the CVB Establishment Programme, Chris Jones also chaired the CVB Implementation Board.

For day to day oversight of the CVB establishment programme, the SRO ran an oversight group called CVB Chairs. This group supported interdependency and cross programme decision making for the SRO but all major decisions, actions and risks were managed at Implementation Board level. The CVB Chairs membership was the chairs of the workstreams, policy leads and the programme management team.

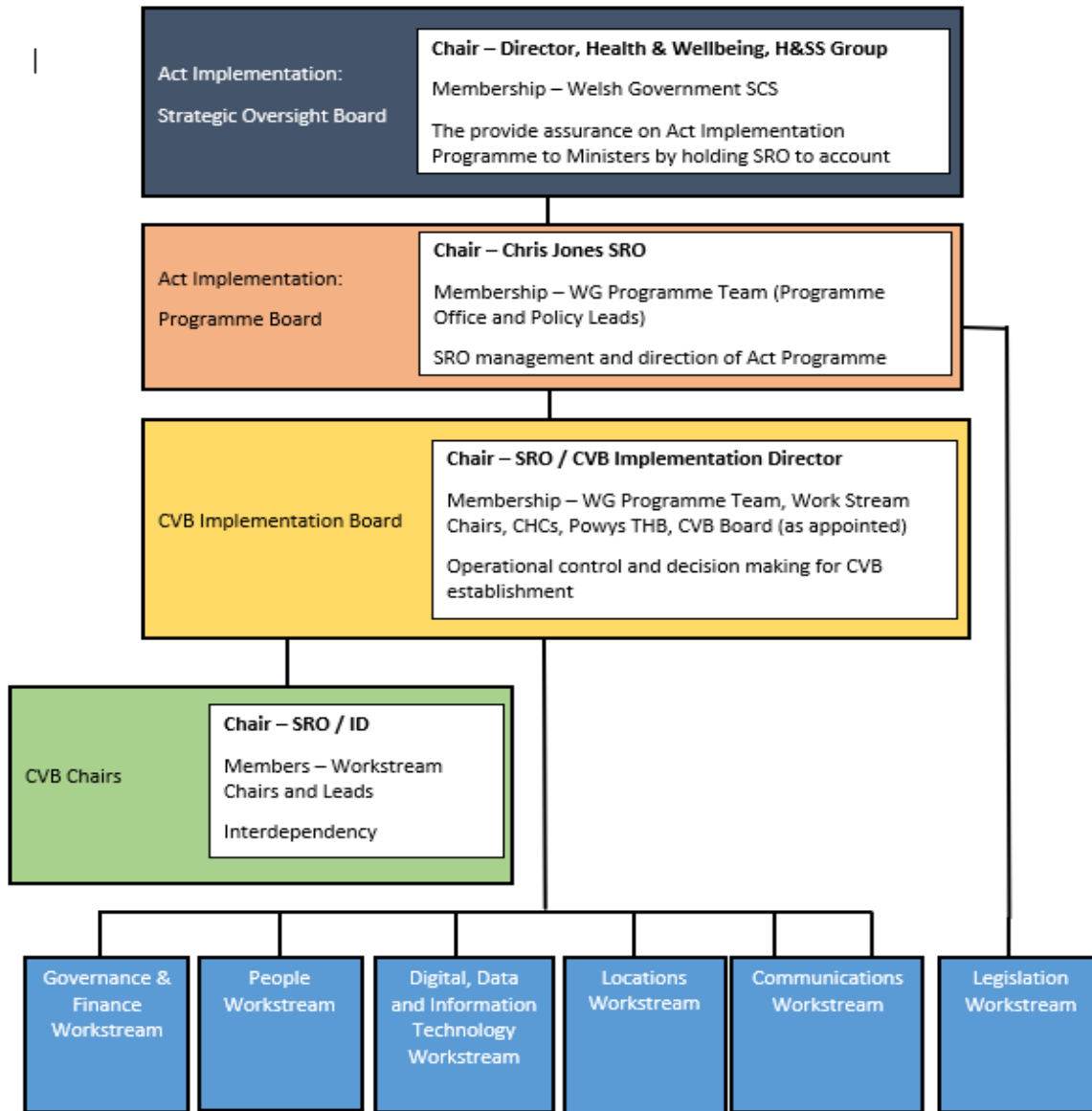
Although the CVB Board was formally established from October 2022 and were able to advise the programme, be consulted and make decisions in principle, work was still ongoing to establish financial systems and all budget / spending decision remained with the SRO of the programme.

To support decision making during the programme and to recognise the varied stakeholders, a programme Decision Making Framework was developed detailing which people or groups held decision making authority at the various stages of the programme.

The Citizen Voice Body (CVB) establishment programme adopted the risk management framework of the Welsh Government as the sponsoring organisation for the programme. This included regular monitoring of key risks and escalation plans from workstream to implementation board to strategic oversight board. The CVB Establishment Programme Closure Report (July 2023), shared with Llais, detailed open risks that were considered ongoing and handed over to Llais.

Through the CVB Implementation Team, including workstream and finance support, the expenditure on establishing CVB was accounted for, validated and attributed between Welsh Government programme costs and Llais Board costs. The costs attributed to Llais Board, funded by Welsh Government, and reported through these Annual Report and Accounts, were signed off by Welsh Government officials. As part of the establishment programme arrangements these costs were initially authorised and accounted for through NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP). NWSSP governance and accounting systems were in place for the year under review. No irregularities in expenditure have been identified or reported up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Accounts.

CVB Establishment Programme Structure



The Governance Statement provides a summary of the steps the programme took to demonstrate that Implementation Board and Llais operated in accordance with the governance standards and the wider standards framework. This report demonstrates the evidence that Implementation Board and Llais comply with these standards.

Professor Chris Jones

Senior Responsible Officer, CVB Implementation Board

Accounting Officer, Llais

Date : 22 November 2023

Based on the above assurances from the former Accounting Officer and from my own review of the matters required to be included within this Governance Statement, I am satisfied that for the 2022/23 financial year, and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Accounts, a sound governance framework and system of internal control were in place.

Alyson Thomas,

Chief Executive, Accounting Officer, Llais (from 1 April 2023)

Date : 22 November 2023

Remuneration Report

The Accounts Direction for 2022/23 included reduced Remuneration Report reporting and disclosure requirements reflecting that Llais was not operational in 2022/23.

During establishment, a whole new board was recruited for Llais using the public appointments process and careful consideration was given to how the board could be more truly representative of the people of Wales and lead the organisation in promoting equality.

Other than the Interim Chief Executive Llais did not have any members of staff in 2022/23.

Remuneration (including salary) and pension entitlements

Single total figure of remuneration (subject to audit)

		Salary	Pension Benefits	Total	Appointment Date
		2022-23	2022-23	2022-23	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Medwin Hughes	Chair	0	0	0	1 April 2022
Alyson Thomas	Interim Chief Executive	25-30	-	25-30	3 October 2022
Grace Quantock	Vice Chair	10-15	0	10-15	6 June 2022
Bamidele Adenipekun	Non Executive Member	5-10	0	5-10	1 July 2022
Barbara Harrington	Non Executive Member	5-10	0	5-10	1 July 2022
Jack Evershed	Non Executive Member	5-10	0	5-10	1 July 2022
Jason Smith	Non Executive Member	5-10	0	5-10	1 July 2022
Karen Lewis	Non Executive Member	5-10	0	5-10	1 July 2022
Rajan Madhok	Non Executive Member	5-10	0	5-10	1 July 2022

At the time of accounts issue the pension benefit figures were not available from the NHS Business Services Authority. The total employer contributions in 2022-23 was £0-5k.

The Remuneration table relates to the part year period to March 2023. The full year equivalent remuneration would be as follows:

- Interim Chief Executive £110k-£115k
- Chair £15k-£20k
- Vice Chair £10k-£15k
- Non Executive Member £5k-£10k

For 2022/23 senior pay remuneration was invoiced via NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership. The gross cost included unrecoverable VAT. The staff costs identified in the financial statements include the unrecoverable VAT while the Remuneration table is net of VAT.

For 2022/23 the Chair declined chair remuneration as he was employed as Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales and University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

The Interim Chief Executive was an employee of Powys Teaching Health Board for the full 12 months of 2022/23. As Chief Executive of the Board of CHCs for the first six months of 2022/23 100% of costs were attributable to the Board of CHCs. For the second six months of 2022/23 she was both Chief Executive of the Board of CHCs and Interim Chief Executive of Llais. The appointment as Interim Chief Executive with effect from 3 October 2022 to the Executive & Senior Pay grade ESP10. Thus for the latter six months broadly 50% of costs were attributable to the Board of CHCs and 50% of cost were attributable to Llais (including adjustment for additional responsibilities).

The Interim Chief Executive is a member of the NHS pension scheme. Llais is signed up to the NHS pension scheme and staff transferring on 1 April 2023, from the former Board of CHCs & CHCs, who are members of the scheme will continue to be members of the scheme. If staff join the NHS pension scheme Llais, as the employer, will contribute 20.6% towards their pension.

The amount of pension benefits for the year which contributes to the single total figure is calculated in a similar way to the method used to derive pension values for tax purposes and is based in information received from actuaries. The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation or any increase or decreases due to a transfer of pension rights.

This is not an amount which has been paid to an individual by Llais during the year; it is a calculation which uses information from the pension benefit table. These figures can be influenced by many factors e.g. changes in a person's salary, whether or not they choose to make additional contributions to the pension scheme from their pay and other valuation factors affecting the pension scheme as a whole.

Pension Benefits (Subject to audit)

	Total accrued pension at 31 March 2023 £'000	Real increase in pension at 31 March 2023 £'000	Total accrued lump sum at 31 March 2023 £'000	Real increase / (decrease) in lump sum at 31 March 2023 £'000	CETV at 31 March 2023 £'000	CETV at 31 March 2022 £'000	Real increase / (decrease) in CETV at 31 March 2023 £'000
Alyson Thomas Interim Chief Executive	15-20	-	-	-	264	-	-

At the time of accounts issue, full pension figures were not available from the NHS Business Services Authority.

The Interim Chief Executive is an ordinary member of the NHS pension scheme.

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. It is a payment made by a pension scheme, or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme, or arrangement when a member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the pension benefits they have accrued in their former scheme.

The pension figures shown related to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures and other pension details include the value of any pension in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

The real increase in the value of the CETV reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee, including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement, and uses common market valuation factors from the start and end of the period.

The Certificate and report of the Auditor General for Wales to the Senedd

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care, Wales (known as Llais) for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Changes in Taxpayer's and related notes, including the significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of Llais' affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its net expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual.
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Welsh Ministers' directions issued under the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects, the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Senedd and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my certificate.

My staff and I are independent of the body in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my

other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinions.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the body's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this certificate.

The going concern basis of accounting for Llais is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual, which require entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and parts of the remuneration report that are audited and my auditor's report thereon. The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information in the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with Welsh Ministers' directions made under the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020.

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit have been properly prepared in accordance with Welsh Ministers' directions made under the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020; and
- the information given in the Performance Report and Accountability Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the body and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance Report and Accountability Report.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit.
- proper accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team;
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- information specified by Welsh Ministers regarding remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed;
- certain disclosures of remuneration specified by HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual are not made or parts of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for:

- maintaining proper accounting records;

- the preparation of the financial statements and Annual Report in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- ensuring that the Annual Report and financial statements as a whole are fair, balanced and understandable;
- ensuring the regularity of financial transactions;
- internal controls as the Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing Llais' ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by Llais will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Llais' policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: posting of unusual journals and management override of controls;
- Obtaining an understanding of Llais' framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that the Llais operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of Llais; and
- Obtaining an understanding of related party relationships.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of Llais' controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Senedd and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
27 November 2023

1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2022-23 £'000
Expenditure		
Staff costs	2	110
Other Operating Expenditure	3	22
Total Operating Expenditure		<hr/> 132
Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the year		<hr/> <hr/> 132

All income and expenditure is derived from Board operations.
There are no recognised gains or losses in 2022-23
Llais receives funding from the Welsh Government.

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Statement of Financial Position for the year ended 31 March 2023

		31 March 2023	
	Note	£'000	£'000
Non- current assets:			
Property, Plant and Equipment		-	
Intangible assets		-	
Total non-current assets			-
Current Assets:			
Trade and other receivables	4	-	
Cash and cash equivalents	5	0	
Total current assets			0
Total assets			<u>0</u>
Current liabilities:			
Trade and other payables	6	(21)	
Total current liabilities			(21)
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>(21)</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions		-	
Total non-current liabilities			-
Total assets less total liabilities			<u>(21)</u>
Taxpayers' equity			(21)
General reserves			<u>(21)</u>

Alyson Thomas

Chief Executive, Accounting Officer (from 1 April 2023)

Date: 22 November 2023

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	31 March 2023 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net expenditure		(132)
Adjustments for non-cash transactions		-
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables		-
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		21
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(111)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-
Purchase of intangible assets		-
Net cash outflow from investing activities		0
Cash flows from financing activities		
Funding from Welsh Government		111
Net financing		111
Net increase/(decrease) in cash equivalents in the period		(0)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		(0)

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Statement of Changes in Taxpayer's Equity for the year ended 31 March 2023

General Reserve

1 April 2022 - 31
March 2023
£'000

Balance as at 1 April	0
Net expenditure	(132)
Total recognised income and expense	<u>(132)</u>
Funding from Welsh Government	111
Balance as at 31 March	<u>(21)</u>

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government Accounts Direction and the 2022-23 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context.

Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which has been judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of Llais for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by Llais are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

1.1 Accounting Convention

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention.

1.2 Income, Funding and Expenditure

The main source of funding for Llais is from Welsh Government via an annual funding allocation.

The accruals basis of accounting means that income and expenditure disclosed in the accounts are accounted for in the year that it takes place, not when cash payments are made or received.

Expenditure is that which relates directly to the activities of Llais.

Welsh Government confirmed funding allocation for 2022/23 was £132k, with £111k cash drawn down in 2022/23.

As funding allocation matched expenditure Llais met its financial obligations to ensure that net expenditure did not exceed the net revenue resource allocation

1.3 Pensions

Llais Chief Executive and directly employed staff are eligible for membership of the NHS Pension Scheme. The scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme that covers NHS and other employers, General Practices and other bodies, allowed under the direction of the Secretary of State, in England and Wales. The scheme is not designed to be run in a way that would enable NHS and other bodies to identify their share of the underlying scheme assets and liabilities. Therefore, the scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme: the cost to the body of participating in the scheme is taken as equal to the contributions payable to the scheme for the accounting period.

1.4 Employee Benefits

Salaries and national insurance contributions for current employees are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure as the employees' services are delivered. The Llais accounts for paid annual leave as a liability where the compensation for absence is due to be settled within twelve months after the end of the period in which the employees render the service.

1.5 VAT

Llais is not registered for VAT. All expenditure is reported inclusive of VAT where applicable, as VAT is irrecoverable.

1.6 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all funds held in accounts to which the Llais has instant access. Funds are drawn down into the bank account to pay liabilities as they fall due.

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Notes to the Accounts

2. Staff costs comprise:

	2022-23		
	Permanent Staff	Contingent Staff	Total Staff costs
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Salaries	100	-	100
Social Security costs	5	-	5
Other Pension Costs	5	-	5
Total net costs	110	-	110

Note

Board members included in Permanent Staff costs

Costs include Chief Executive pay arrears paid in 2023/24

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Notes to the Accounts

3. Other Operating Expenditure

Other operating expenditure consists of:

	Note	2022-23 £'000
Operating Expenditure		
Rentals under operating leases		-
Other accommodation costs		-
Information technology		-
Professional fees		-
Training & development		-
Travel & subsistence		1
Audit fees – Internal audit		-
Audit fees – External audit		20
Specific Programmes		-
Other administrative expenses		1
		<hr/>
		22
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation		-
Amortisation		-
Provision		-
		<hr/>
		-
Total		<hr/>
		22
		<hr/>

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Notes to the Accounts

4. Trade and other receivables

31 March 2023
£'000

Current Assets:

Trade and other receivables :

-

Total trade and other receivables

0

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Notes to the Accounts

5. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2022-23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	-
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	0
Balance at 31 March	0
The following balances at 31 March were held at:	
Commercial banks and cash in hand	0
Balance at 31 March	0

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Notes to the Accounts

6. Trade payables/accruals

31 March 2023
£'000

Current liabilities:

Trade payables	-
Other payables & accruals	
Pay accruals	1
Audit Wales	20
Total trade and other payables	21

Llais Financial Statements 2022/23

Notes to the Accounts

7. Related-Party Transactions

In 2022-23, Llais received cash funding of £111k from the Welsh Government, against confirmed funding allocation of £132k.

The Welsh Government is regarded as a related party.

During 2022-23, neither the Llais Chief Executive, Chair nor any other Non Executive Members, or any of their families, were involved directly or indirectly in any transactions with Llais during the year, apart from normal salary payments and expense claims.

8. Events After the Reporting Period

There were no significant events occurring between the year end and the approval of these accounts.

These financial statements were authorised for issue on 22 November 2023 by Alyson Thomas