

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE – JUNE 2017

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 27 June 2017. This briefing sets out the key areas of discussion and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what's happening in Welsh Health Specialised Services.

The papers for the meeting are available [here](#)

Len Richards was welcomed as a new member having recently been appointed as Chief Executive Officer at Cardiff & Vale UHB.

Action Log

Members noted the action log. Members received an update on:

- JC007 - WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan 2017-20 (ICP) Approval: All voting members had signed a Written Resolution or confirmed their support in writing; the ICP was therefore approved.
- JC001; JC004; JC005 – ICP-related actions: The remaining open ICP-related actions would be progressed following approval of the ICP.
- JC009 – Provision of Specialised Neurosciences in NHS Wales – The Neurosciences Strategy Group had held its first meeting at which it agreed a timeline and prioritised the consideration of sub speciality services.

Chair's Report

Members noted the Chair's report.

The Chair's action approving the recommendations set out in the paper on the Specialised Neurosciences Review that was considered at the May meeting was ratified.

Acting Managing Director's Report

Members noted the Acting Managing Director's report and in particular:

- Thoracic Surgery Review - Engagement
The engagement process regarding the Stage One decision had begun; a further discussion regarding a proposed revised timetable would take place in private session.
- Performance Management

An enhanced performance management framework is being developed that will incorporate the WHSSC escalation process and be reported on through a revised version of the Performance Report. Current performance issues would be considered under the Performance Management agenda item and expanded upon in the private session.

- Completion of the All Wales Blood Service Programme
A closure report had been received that confirmed the project had successfully completed within timeline, generated cost savings and maintained a quality blood supply for the whole of Wales. A more detailed summary of the report will be presented to the July meeting.

S Lewis reported that her appointment as Managing Director of WHSSC had been confirmed and she will commence in that role in September 2017.

Inherited Bleeding Disorders (IBD)

Members received a presentation that highlighted the continued patient and commissioner risks in the IBD service, made members aware that the WHSSC Team was not fully assured that the current arrangements would address these risks, and outlined options and a recommendation to address the risks. It was noted that IBD was a specialised service but that the commissioning arrangements were mixed. A proposal to address the issue was considered by Management Group in January 2017 but a decision was deferred. The WHSSC Team had written to Health Board CEOs to advise them of the outcome and the continuing risks. The current paper had been developed with a view to addressing the continuing issues.

The proposal included recruitment of new resource within WHSSC (0.5 wte) to undertake the development of an all Wales commissioning strategy but the cost would be funded from anticipated cost savings. Health Boards were asked to transfer their existing IBD resources to WHSSC in support of the proposal.

The proposal was supported in principle, subject to a summary of the headline costs and savings on which the proposal was based.

Performance Report

Members received the report for March 2017, which provided a summary of the key issues arising and detailed the actions being undertaken to address areas of non-compliance.

The following areas were addressed in some detail: Cardiac Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Paediatric Surgery, Neurosurgery, Bariatric Surgery, Thoracic Surgery and Posture & Mobility.

Financial Performance Report

Members received the finance report for Month 2 2017-18 noting a forecast under spend to year-end of £760k based on limited Month 1 data. There were some concerns around the NHS England spend that was now based on HRG4+ Pbr rates – the WHSSC Team was resisting this on the basis that it reflected a cost increase in specialised services for no extra activity.

Joint Sub Committees and Advisory Groups

Members noted the update reports from the following joint sub committees and advisory groups:

- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request Panel
- Cwm Taf Audit Committee
 - The WHSSC Annual Governance Statement 2016-17 and Annual Accounts 2016-17 had been approved.
- Wales Neonatal Network
- NHS Wales Gender Identity Partnership Group
 - The revised Terms of Reference of the Group were approved.