

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – JULY 2019

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 23 July 2019. This briefing sets out the key areas of discussion and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening in Welsh Health Specialised Services.

The papers for the meeting are available at:

<http://www.whssc.wales.nhs.uk/2019-20-whssc-joint-committee>

Action log & matters arising

Members noted the action log.

Chair's Report

The Joint Committee received an oral report from the Chair. The Chair's annual appraisal with the Minister the previous week had gone well and the Minister had confirmed that the Chair's appointment was extended by a further year.

Managing Director's Report

The Joint Committee noted the content of the Managing Director's report and, in particular, an update on Radiofrequency Ablation for Barrett's Oesophagus in south and mid Wales, where expressions of interest for provision of a south Wales based service had been received from CVUHB and SBUHB. The service development is anticipated to be cost neutral or cost saving. The WHSS Team is progressing the CVUHB proposal but the original timeline for a service model recommendation by July 2019 has slipped.

Adult Thoracic Surgery for South Wales

The Joint Committee received a paper that (1) summarised the outstanding issues from the November 2018 Joint Committee meeting regarding the single site model for thoracic surgery based at Morriston Hospital, Swansea and the progress in addressing those issues; and (2) made recommendations regarding the future thoracic surgery consultant workforce model and emergency thoracic surgery cover for the Major Trauma Centre (MTC).

The latest proposals built on the consensus previously achieved regarding the additional (fourth) thoracic consultant post at UHW, to support the opening of the MTC, the funding for which would be included within the MTC business case and approved for 12 months. This appointment would need to be subject to an ongoing evaluation and extended if necessary. Also during this time the two thoracic centres would develop plans to work together developing a single emergency rota.

Members acknowledged that because of the uncertainty regarding the future consultant workforce requirements for the single thoracic surgery unit at Moriston Hospital, it is proposed that additional funding for two posts is allocated with the MTC business case when it is considered in September 2019. This would be in addition to the existing establishment of six posts. However funding release is dependent on an ongoing review of the real world experience from the MTC, updated activity figures, a clearer understanding of the strategic issues highlighted above and the formal professional advice of the SCTC on emergency cover for major trauma centres. This will ensure that a fully informed recommendation can be brought back to the Joint Committee well in advance of the move to a single site and that the new centre opens with the right number of consultant thoracic surgeons to ensure a safe and sustainable service.

Members:

- Noted the work that had been undertaken by the medical directors of CVUHB and SBUHB as well as the WHSS Team to develop workforce proposals for the consultant thoracic surgical service;
- Supported the appointment of an additional consultant thoracic surgeon, funded through the MTC work stream, to support implementation of the MTC from April 2020 initially on an interim basis, pending clarity of the level of need;
- Supported the allocation of funding for an additional two consultant surgeons (in addition to the existing establishment of six) from the MTC business case when the new single centre at Morriston Hospital is opened – the funding release for which will be dependent on consideration by the Joint Committee of the real world experience of the MTC, updated activity figures, a clearer understanding of the strategic issues highlighted above and the formal professional advice of the SCTC on emergency cover for major trauma centres;
- Noted the information set out in the May Joint Committee paper which provided assurance around the caveats identified by the affected health boards and the requirement for a report on the lessons learned from the engagement and consultation exercises; and
- Supported the recommendations going forward to the six affected health boards and agreed that they be asked to confirm their

unconditional approval for a single adult Thoracic Surgery Centre based at Morriston Hospital, Swansea.

Major Trauma Network for South Wales (MTN)

The Joint Committee received an oral update on the latest developments regarding the MTN. This included an overview of the recently completed Gateway Review and its eleven recommendations, and assurance that the WHSS Team was still working to the original timeline (April 2020 'go live'), which included Management Group scrutiny and a presentation to Joint Committee for consideration in September 2019. It was noted that the Trauma Network Board was addressing the recommendations from the Gateway Review and the SRO would need to take a view on whether the original timeline could still be achieved in light of the outcome of this work; it was anticipated that this view would be taken in around three weeks' time.

Cystic Fibrosis 2019-20 ICP Strategic Priority

The Joint Committee received a paper that (1) provided an update on the implementation of Phase 1 investment for the All Wales Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre; and (2) requested approval for the release of funding for the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Service 2019-20.

Members:

- Noted the information presented in the report;
- Approved the release of funding from 2019-20 ICP slippage to recruit to the remaining posts in Phase 2 Part A to support the current cohort and the continued development of the satellite clinics; and
- Supported taking forward the case for a recurrent Home IV service and satellite clinic staff to the 2020-21 ICP, in the event that Welsh Government declined separate 'Healthier Wales' funding.

Other reports

The Joint Committee received the Integrated Performance Report and the Financial Performance Report. The Joint Committee also noted the update reports from the following joint sub committees and advisory groups:

- Management Group;
- All Wales (WHSSC) Individual Patient Funding Request Panel;
- Integrated Governance Committee; and
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee.

