

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – JULY 2020

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 14 July 2020 with a 'consent agenda', as described on the WHSSC website. This briefing sets out the key areas of consideration and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening in Welsh Health Specialised Services.

Written questions from members and answers had been published in advance of the meeting and would be embedded within the meeting papers.

The papers for the meeting are available at:

<http://www.whssc.wales.nhs.uk/2020-21-whssc-joint-committee>

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 12 May 2020 were taken as read and approved.

Action log & matters arising

Members noted there were no outstanding actions or matters arising.

Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director's report, including updates on the mother and baby unit, IVF, the Swansea mobile PET scanner, the PET international webinar and NCCU expenditure on mental health services for the COVID-19 period, was taken as read.

Paediatric Ketogenic Diet

A paper that set out the current concerns and risks associated with the implementation of the Integrated Commissioning Plan scheme for the Paediatric Ketogenic Diet service at CVUHB, as a result of a funding shortfall on one of the key posts for the service, was taken as read and the funding of the dietitian element to allow the service to be developed in NHS Wales was approved.

All Wales Traumatic Stress Quality Improvement Initiative

A paper setting out the commissioning arrangements for the All Wales Traumatic Stress Quality Improvement Initiative and informing members of the confirmation of funding from Welsh Government for the Initiative was taken as noted.

Integrated Commissioning Planning

The Director of Planning presented an overview of the suite of papers describing the WHSS Team approach to the Integrated Commissioning Plan for specialised services during the COVID-19 pandemic, acknowledging that priorities needed to be aligned between specialised and other services and that there was a need to remain flexible.

The content of the suite of papers was noted, particularly (1) the approach to new investment agreed for 2020-21 by Management Group and (2) the work underway regarding new interventions which may offer alternative treatment options for patients which reduce the risks of COVID-19 harm. Support was confirmed for (1) the revised process for the development of the WHSSC 2021-24 Integrated Commissioning Plan and (2) the revised process for the prioritisation of new interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Risk assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic

A paper outlining the risk management approach being taken by the WHSS Team during the COVID-19 pandemic was taken as read and supported.

In particular, members noted (1) that the CRAF continues to be monitored, (2) that risk assurance was being undertaken on individual services, and (3) the additional strategic risks detailed in the paper and their link to the risk appetite statement.

Independent Hospitals Commissioning

The Director of Finance presented an overview of the paper that provided an update on the commissioning of independent hospitals in Wales for the initial three month period to 6 July 2020, funded by Welsh Government, and the extension period to 6 September 2020, funded by health boards. Six hospitals had been commissioned from the outset but the arrangement had only been extended with four of the hospitals. It would be for local health boards to contract direct with the independent hospitals beyond 6 September committing their own funding but the WHSS Team would be available to assist in the process. NHSE was extending similar English contracts for two months but for reduced capacity.

The content of the paper was noted.

Trauma Network “Go Live” Update

A paper that provided an update on the progress made to determine readiness of the South Wales Trauma Network and to recommend a ‘go live’ date of Monday 14 September 2020 was noted. Members received assurance that the Trauma Network is ready to go live and approved the proposed ‘go live’ date.

WHSSC Protocol for Dealing with Concerns

A revised version of the Protocol (previously approved in 2016) was presented that reflected changes to the structure of the WHSS Team, including addition of the Quality Assurance team, and improved clarity around the process for concerns regarding the function of the WHSS Team. The revised version of the Protocol was approved.

WHSSC Sub-Committee 2019-20 Annual Reports

A suite of papers setting out the WHSSC Sub-committee 2019-20 Annual Reports was taken as read. It was noted that the WCRN Annual Report would follow.

WHSSC Annual Self-Assessment Exercise 2019-20

A paper that provided members with information and assurance relating to the WHSSC Annual Self-assessment Exercise for 2019-20, for the Joint Committee and its Sub-committees and Groups, was taken as read. The actions arising from the exercise, recorded in section 3.7 of the paper, were noted.

Financial Performance Report – Month 2 2020/21

A paper that set out the financial position for WHSSC for month 2 of 2020-21, including a forecast under spend of £2m at year end, was taken as read. The Director of Finance reported that, while the full month 3 report was not yet available, finance teams had been made aware that the month 3 forecast under spend at year end had increased to around £6m.

Other reports

Members also took as read the update reports from the following joint Sub-committees and Advisory Groups:

- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request Panel;
- Integrated Governance Committee;
- Management Group;
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee; and
- Welsh Renal Clinical Network Board.

