

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
WHSSC Joint Committee Meeting held In Public on
Tuesday 13 October 2020
by MS TEAMS**

Members Present:

Kate Eden	(KE)	Chair
Carole Bell	(CB)	Director of Nursing and Quality Assurance, WHSSC
Stuart Davies	(SD)	Director of Finance, WHSSC
Emrys Elias	(EE)	Vice Chair
Paul Griffiths	(PG)	Independent Member, CTMUHB
Sian Lewis	(SL)	Managing Director, WHSSC
Paul Mears	(PM)	Chief Executive Officer, Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB
Tracy Myhill	(TM)	Chief Executive Officer, Swansea Bay UHB
Judith Paget	(JP)	Chief Executive Officer, Aneurin Bevan UHB
Ian Phillips	(IP)	Independent Member, PTHB
Len Richards	(LR)	Chief Executive Officer, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Carol Shillabeer	(CS)	Chief Executive Officer, Powys THB

Deputies:

Iolo Doull	(ID)	Deputy Medical Director, WHSSC
Mandy Rayani (part)	(MR)	Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience, Hywel Dda UHB
Iain Wilkie	(IW)	Acting Director of Mental Health and Learning Difficulties, Betsi Cadwalader UHB

Apologies:

Steve Moore	(SM)	Chief Executive Officer, Hywel Dda UHB
Jenny Thomas	(JT)	Medical Director, WHSSC

In Attendance:

Adrian Clark	(AC)	Assistant Director of Nursing and Quality, NCCU
Kieron Donovan	(KD)	Affiliate Member/ Chair, Welsh Renal Clinical Network
Shane Mills	(SM)	Clinical Director for Collaborative Commissioning, NCCU
Karen Preece	(KP)	Director of Planning, WHSSC
Kevin Smith	(KS)	Committee Secretary & Head of Corporate Services, WHSSC
Helen Tyler	(HT)	Corporate Governance Manager, WHSSC

Minutes:

Michaella Henderson	(MH)	Corporate Governance Officer, WHSSC
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The meeting opened at 16:05 hrs.

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JC20/048	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>KE introduced herself as the newly appointed Chair of WHSSC. The Chair thanked Professor Vivienne Harpwood, Interim Chair of WHSSC for the past three years, for her service to the organisation and to specialised services. The Chair noted she was looking forward to working side-by-side with her Co-Members of the Joint Committee and the staff of WHSSC to ensure equitable access to safe, effective and specialised services for the people of Wales.</p> <p>KE welcomed Members to the meeting and reminded them that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was being held via MS Teams on a quorum basis with a consent agenda. It was noted that a quorum had been achieved.</p> <p>Apologies were noted as above.</p>
JC20/049	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Joint Committee noted the standing declarations. No additional declarations were made.</p>
JC20/050	<p>Reducing harm due to COVID-19: Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy and Brachytherapy</p> <p>Members received and considered a paper the purpose of which was to request approval for in-year funding to expand the commissioned indications for Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) and Brachytherapy in order to provide additional, evidence based, treatment options to support the reduction of harm related to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>KP reported the paper had previously been considered by Management Group who were supportive of the proposals contained therein but had agreed that, because in-year funding was required, it should be referred to Joint Committee for the approval. KP further noted that, as WHSSC was forecasting a significant underspend for the financial year, funding for the proposals would be allocated entirely from that underspend.</p> <p>KP highlighted from the paper that both SABR and Brachytherapy had been considered via the Clinical Impact Assessment Group (CIAG) process in October 2019 but their relative scores and priority ranking fell below the cut off that was determined for inclusion as funded schemes within the ICP 2020-23. Members sought assurances that SABR and Brachytherapy would not be funded to the exclusion of any scheme that was prioritised higher in the CIAG process and the WHSS Team provided those assurances to the satisfaction of Members.</p>

TM explained that SBUHB had submitted a proposal to provide SABR for south west Wales' patients. The WHSS Team acknowledged that this would be considered at an appropriate time.

Members noted the WHSS Team had already discussed the proposed arrangements with all providers involved in the proposals.

Members consented to the recommendations set out in the paper, namely to:

- **Note** that clinical evidence favours the routine commissioning of SABR to treat patients with Oligometastatic cancer and Hepatocellular carcinoma;
- **Note** treating patients with SABR helps to reduce COVID-19 related harm since the relative benefits of SABR compared with alternative treatment modalities (surgery or systemic therapy) increase when there is risk of infection with COVID-19;
- **Note** clinical evidence favours the routine commissioning of Brachytherapy to treat patients with intermediate and high risk localised prostate cancer;
- **Note** by substituting for a proportion of external beam radiotherapy, the provision of Brachytherapy for intermediate and high risk prostate cancer patients will allow increased radiotherapy throughput, reducing COVID-19 related harm by increasing the ability to treat backlog and manage any future surge of previously suppressed demand;
- **Approve** commissioning SABR for patients with Oligometastatic cancer and Hepatocellular carcinoma in line with WHSSC's draft commissioning policies as in-year service developments on an interim basis for 6 months;
- **Approve** commissioning Brachytherapy in line with WHSSC's draft commissioning policy as an in-year service development on an interim basis for 6 months; and
- **Note** recurrent funding for SABR for Oligometastatic cancer and Hepatocellular carcinoma, and Brachytherapy for intermediate and high risk prostate cancer, will be considered through the WHSSC ICP process for 2021-24.

JC20/051	Any Other Business No other business was raised.
JC20/052	Date and Time of Next Scheduled Meeting Members noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on 10 November 2020.

The meeting ended at 16:25 hrs.

Chair

Date.....

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