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Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2020

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 8 September 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 14 July 2020 were taken as read and approved.

Action log & matters arising

Members noted there were no outstanding actions or matters arising.

Chair's Report

The Chair's Report referred members to a Chair's Action taken on 14 July 2020 to approve temporary amendments to the WHSSC Standing Orders, which was ratified.

The Chair reported that, as planned, this would be her last meeting and that the Minister had appointed her replacement, the details of which would be announced shortly.

Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director's report, including updates on a new commissioning assurance framework and Radio-frequency Ablation for Barrett's Oesophagus, was taken as read.

TAVI Management of Severe Aortic Stenosis during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Members received a paper outlining the current situation and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the management of severe aortic stenosis and the evidence to support the short term commissioning arrangements for TAVI for the intermediate patient group during the pandemic, together with proposed funding arrangements.

Members (1) supported the recommendation that WHSSC formally changes the commissioning policy to include intermediate risk patients but allows decision making on individual cases to be taken by clinical discretion through the MDT process, and (2) approved the WHSSC position regarding funding in that payments under the block contract and pass through arrangements for TAVI devices will be limited up to 2019-20 outturn levels.

Options Appraisal for a Permanent Perinatal Mental Health In Patient Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) in Wales

Members received a paper that informed them of the options appraisal exercise and scoring of the short listed options for a permanent perinatal mental health in patient MBU in Wales.

It was reported that a letter from the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales had been received that was supportive of the options appraisal process but noted that more further formal public engagement was expected on the options once a preferred option was identified.

Members (1) noted that both options meet the WHSSC service specification, (2) supported the recommendation from the non-financial options that Neath Port Talbot Hospital is the preferred location of a permanent mother and baby unit, and (3) noted that the final preferred option will be subject to the usual business case process to access Welsh Government capital.

Major Trauma Network Readiness Assurance Update

Members received a paper that provided final assurance that the South Wales Trauma Network is ready to go live on 14th September 2020.

Members received final assurance and noted that following a robust assessment process by the Trauma Network Team and as recommended by the Trauma Network Implementation Board all component parts of the Trauma Network are ready and the Network can proceed to launch on 14th September 2020.

Welsh Renal Clinical Network 2019-20 Annual Report

The Welsh Renal Clinical Network 2019-20 Annual Report was taken as read.

Financial Performance Report – Month 4 2020-21

A paper that set out the financial position for WHSSC for month 4 of 2020-21, including a forecast under spend of £6m at year end, was taken as read. The under spend related mainly to months 1-4 underspend on the pass through elements of Welsh provider SLA's, COVID-19 block arrangements with NHSE for Q1 and Q2 below the plan baseline and Q1 2020-21 development slippage.

The Director of Finance reported that, while the full month 5 report was not yet available, the position had continued to improve.

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.

