

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
WHSSC Joint Committee Meeting held In Public on  
Tuesday 8 September 2020  
by MS TEAMS**

**Members Present:**

Vivienne Harpwood	(VH)	Chair
Stuart Davies	(SD)	Director of Finance, WHSSC
Emrys Elias	(EE)	Independent Member/ Q&PS Committee Chair
Gill Harris	(GH)	Interim Chief Executive, BCUHB
Sian Lewis	(SL)	Managing Director, WHSSC
Judith Paget	(JP)	Chief Executive Officer, Aneurin Bevan UHB
Ian Phillips	(IP)	Independent Member
Carol Shillabeer	(CS)	Chief Executive Officer, Powys THB

**Deputies:**

Iolo Doull	(ID)	Deputy Medical Director, WHSSC
Martin Driscoll	(MD)	Deputy CEO & Director of Workforce, CVUHB
Hannah Evans	(HE)	Director of Transformation, SBUHB
Nick Lyons	(NL)	Deputy CEO & Medical Director, Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB

**Apologies:**

Carole Bell	(CB)	Director of Nursing and Quality Assurance, WHSSC
Paul Griffiths	(PG)	Independent Member, CTMUHB
Jason Killens	(JK)	Chief Executive Officer, WAST
Steve Moore	(SM)	Chief Executive Officer, Hywel Dda UHB
Tracy Myhill	(TM)	Chief Executive Officer, Swansea Bay UHB
Len Richards	(LR)	Chief Executive Officer, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Jenny Thomas	(JT)	Medical Director, WHSSC

**In Attendance:**

Kieron Donovan	(KD)	Affiliate Member/ Chair, Welsh Renal Clinical Network
Kate Eden		Observer, PHW
Karen Preece	(KP)	Director of Planning, WHSSC
Kevin Smith	(KS)	Committee Secretary & Head of Corporate Services, WHSSC

The meeting opened at 08:30 hrs.

JC20/034	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair 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> <p>Written questions from members and answers had been published in advance of the meeting and would be embedded within the meeting papers.</p>
JC20/035	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Joint Committee noted the standing declarations. No additional declarations were made.</p>
JC20/036	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>The Joint Committee approved the minutes of the meetings held on 14 July 2020 as true and accurate record.</p>
JC20/037	<p><b>Action Log and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Members noted there were no outstanding actions or matters arising.</p>
JC20/038	<p><b>TAVI Management of Severe Aortic Stenosis during the COVID-19 Pandemic</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>HE explained that the south Wales providers had expressed a reluctance to support the proposal on funding grounds because it was felt that any slippage on the current block contracts would be used to finance COVID-19 specific expenditure but they would now be providing the estimated device pass through costs in their month 6 forecast to Welsh Government if the proposal received Joint Committee support.</p> <p>It was generally noted that some flexibility would be necessary to deal with issues of this nature until the pandemic was over.</p> <p>The Joint Committee consented to the Recommendation set out in the paper, namely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support</b> the recommendation that WHSSC formally changes the commissioning policy to include intermediate risk patients but</li> </ul>

	<p>allows decision making on individual cases to be taken by clinical discretion through the MDT process; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approve</b> 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.</li> </ul>
JC20/039	<p><b>Options Appraisal for a Permanent Perinatal Mental Health In Patient Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) in Wales</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>CS, as chair of the Mental health Network, confirmed that this was a key, high profile, development required to meet unmet need.</p> <p>EE noted the continued importance of community based care for those patients who did not want to be admitted to the unit.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Joint Committee consented to the Recommendation set out in the paper, namely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>note</b> that both options meet the WHSSC service specification;</li> <li>• <b>support</b> the recommendation from the non-financial options that Neath Port Talbot Hospital is the preferred location of a permanent mother and baby unit; and</li> <li>• <b>note</b> that the final preferred option will be subject to the usual business case process to access Welsh Government capital.</li> </ul>
JC20/040	<p><b>Chair's Report</b></p> <p>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 members consented to ratify.</p> <p>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.</p>
JC20/041	<p><b>Managing Director's Report</b></p> <p>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.</p>

JC20/042	<p><b>Major Trauma Network Readiness Assurance Update</b> Members received a paper that provided final assurance that the South Wales Trauma Network is ready to go live on 14th September 2020.</p> <p>The Joint Committee consented to the Recommendation set out in the paper, namely to <b>receive final assurance</b> that following a robust assessment process by the Trauma Network Team and as recommended by the Trauma Network Implementation Board all components parts of the Trauma Network are ready and the Network can proceed to launch on 14 September 2020.</p>
JC20/043	<p><b>Welsh Renal Clinical Network 2019-20 Annual Report</b> The Welsh Renal Clinical Network 2019-20 Annual Report was taken as read.</p>
JC20/044	<p><b>Financial Performance Report – Month 4 2020-21</b> 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.</p> <p>The Director of Finance reported that, while the full month 5 report was not yet available, the position had continued to improve.</p> <p>The Joint Committee consented to the Recommendation set out in the paper, namely to <b>note</b> the current financial position and forecast year end position.</p>
JC20/045	<p><b>Reports from the Joint Sub-Committees</b> The Joint Committee received the reports from the Joint Sub-Committees.</p> <p>In relation to the Integrated Governance Committee, VH referred to the highlighted paragraphs in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members requested that Joint Committee members be briefed on the heightened level of risk to patient harm experienced in specialised services during the pandemic and that Chief Executives be encouraged to brief their Boards of Directors on this.</li> <li>• Members also noted that it was important to ensure lessons learned from the pandemic were captured to inform any future event and that shared ownership was important amongst Welsh Government, providers and commissioners.</li> </ul>

	<p>In relation to the Quality &amp; Patient Safety Committee report, EE referred to the presentation delivered by Shane Mills, Clinical Director for Collaborative Commissioning, NCCU, which highlighted how a CAMHS community support initiative had reduced inpatient admissions. SD confirmed that this was a strategy supported by WHSSC that had been facilitated by diversion of funding from inpatient to community care.</p> <p>VH noted, in relation to, Individual Patient Funding Requests, a robust process had been put in place during the pandemic with more regular, weekly, meetings considering requests.</p> <p>The Joint Committee consented to the Recommendation to <b>note</b> the content of the reports from the Joint Sub-Committees.</p>
JC20/046	<p><b>All Wales Traumatic Stress Quality Improvement Initiative</b> SL reported that a letter from Welsh Government confirming funding for the initiative had been received and that Joint Committee now needed to approve commissioning of the initiative by WHSSC. This would be addressed by Chair's Action later in the week.</p>
JC20/047	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Scheduled Meeting</b> The Joint Committee noted the next scheduled meeting would take place on 10 November 2020.</p>

The meeting ended at 09:25 hrs.

**Chairman** .....

**Date**.....