



WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – JULY 2021

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 13 July 2021. This briefing sets out the key areas of consideration and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening within Welsh Health Specialised Services.

The papers for the meeting can be accessed at:

<https://whssc.nhs.wales/joint-committee/committee-meetings-and-papers/2021-2022-meeting-papers/>

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 May 2021 were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Action log & matters arising

Members **noted** the progress on the actions outlined on the action log.

3. Chair's Report

Members received the Chair's Report and **noted**:

- Chairs actions taken in relation to:
 - the appointment of Professor Ceri Phillips, Vice Chair of Cardiff and Vale UHB (CVUHB), as an Independent Member of the Joint Committee, with effect from 1 June 2021 for an initial term of two years, in accordance with the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (Wales) Regulations 2009 and the WHSSC Standing Orders (SO's),
 - variation of the Governance and Accountability Framework and that the amended WHSSC SOs and Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) be taken forward for approval by the seven Health Boards (HBs),
- an update regarding Dr Chris Jones, Vice Chair of the All Wales Independent Patient Funding Panel (IPFR) stepping down,
- an update on attendance at the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) meeting 9 June 2021,
- an update on the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC) meeting 8 June 2021,
- Attendance at the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB (CTMUHB) Board meeting 9 June 2021 during which the WHSSC Annual Governance

Statement 2020-2021 and financial statements were formally approved.

4. Managing Director's Report

Members received the Managing Director's Report and **noted** updates on:

- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS),
- All Wales Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Programme Business Case,
- Ty Llidiard Escalation Review,
- Status Report on Annual Audit of Accounts 2020-2021

5. Appointment of Vice Chair

Members received a report proposing that a Vice Chair be appointed to WHSSC. Members noted that Ian Phillips, Independent Member, WHSSC, had been an Independent Member with WHSSC for 2 years, and was reappointed for a further two years from 1 April 2021 and has extensive knowledge and experience of the breadth of the work undertaken by WHSSC and the Joint Committee.

Members **approved** the appointment of Ian Phillips as Vice Chair of WHSSC.

6. Appointment of Interim Chair to the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN)

Members received a report proposing that an Interim Chair is appointed to the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) for a 6 month period to support business continuity and to allow sufficient time to prepare for and undertake an open and transparent recruitment process to appoint a substantive Chair.

Members **noted** the important work of the WRCN and that traditionally, the WRCN Chair role had been undertaken by a senior renal clinician, however given the remit of the WRCN working closely with the charitable sector, third party providers and Welsh Government, consideration had been given to developing a person specification to incorporate experience of working with a variety of diverse stakeholders as an essential/desirable requirement and recognising that the role should no longer be reserved to a senior renal clinician.

Members **approved** the appointment of Ian Phillips as the Interim Chair of the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) for a period of 6 months.

7. Commissioning of Mesothelioma MDT

Members received a report outlining the case for establishing an all Wales specialist mesothelioma Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) commissioned by WHSSC; and proposing that a scheme for an all Wales mesothelioma MDT is included within the Clinical Impact Assessment Group (CIAG) process for the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) for 2022-2023.

Members **noted** the information provided in the report regarding mesothelioma incidence and outcomes for people in Wales, and the potential benefits of an all Wales specialist mesothelioma MDT; **approved** the proposal to transfer the commissioning of specialised mesothelioma services from Health Boards (HBs) to WHSSC; and **supported** the inclusion of a scheme for an all Wales mesothelioma MDT within the CIAG process for the ICP 2022-2023.

8. Audit Wales Report – Committee Governance Arrangements at WHSSC

Members received the Audit Wales report concerning the review into Committee Governance arrangements at WHSSC undertaken between March and June 2020. Members **noted** that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, aspects of the review had been paused, and re-commenced in July 2020. Members **noted** that:

- A survey was issued to all HBs and the fieldwork was concluded in October 2020,
- the scope of the work included interviews with officers and independent members at WHSSC, observations from attending Joint Committee and sub-committee meetings, feedback from questionnaires issued to HB Chief Executive and Chairs and a review of corporate documents.
- The findings were published in May 2021 in the [Audit Wales Committee Governance Arrangements at WHSSC](#) report,
- The report outlined 4 recommendations for WHSSC and the 3 recommendations for Welsh Government

Members **noted** the report and the Lead Auditor thanked the Joint Committee and the Executive team for their involvement in the production of the report.

9. Audit Wales WHSCC Governance Arrangements – Management Response

Members received the Management Response to the Audit Wales report concerning the review into Committee Governance arrangements at WHSSC.

Members **noted** that the report outlined 4 recommendations for WHSSC and the draft management response has been circulated to HB CEO's, Welsh Government and Audit Wales for comment and feedback. Progress against the actions outlined within the management response will be monitored through the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC) on a quarterly basis, and a full progress report will be presented to the Joint Committee 18 January 2022, once the actions related to the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) process and engagement events have been completed.

Members **noted** that the report outlined 3 recommendations for Welsh Government (WG) and the WG management response had been outlined

in a letter from Dr Andrew Goodall, Director General Health & Social Services/ NHS Wales Chief executive to Mr Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales. Progress against the WG management response will be monitored through discussions between the Chair, the WHSSC Managing Director and the Director General Health & Social Services/ NHS Wales Chief Executive.

Members **noted** the report and the proposed WHSSC management response to the Audit Wales recommendations outlined in the WHSSC Committee Governance Arrangements report, **noted** the Welsh Government response to the Audit Wales recommendations, and noted the proposed arrangements for monitoring progress against the actions outlined in the management responses.

10. Governance & Accountability Framework

Members received a report which provided an update on the WHSSC Governance and Accountability Framework and **noted**:

- the Minister for Health & Social Services had issued updated model standing orders for NHS Bodies in Wales in April 2021, including WHSSC,
- at the last Joint Committee meeting on the 11 May, it was proposed that the revised Governance and Accountability Framework documents, including the Standing Orders (SOs) and Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs), would be approved via Chair's Action outside of the meeting to facilitate expediency,
- on the 21 June, the Chair acting in conjunction with Dr Sian Lewis and Professor Ceri Phillips, Independent Member, took Chair's Action to update the documents and to recommend that the amended SOs and SFIs be taken forward for approval by the seven LHBs for inclusion within their own respective HB SOs,
- Once the updated documents have been approved Chief Executives are required to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and the Hosting agreement,
- A report on the updated Governance and Accountability Framework for WHSSC will be presented to the CTMUHB Audit and Risk Committee on the 17 August 2021 to provide assurance in accordance with the hosting agreement.

Members **noted** the report, **noted** the Chair's Action taken on 21 June 2021 to recommend variation to elements of the Governance and Accountability Framework for onward approval by the seven HBs; and **approved** the updated versions of the MOA and Hosting Agreement.

11. Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021

Members received the WHSSC Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020-2021 for assurance.

Members **noted** the report.

12. Activity Reports for Months 1 and 2 2021-2022 COVID-19 Period

Members received a report that highlighted the scale of decrease in specialised services activity delivered for the Welsh population by providers in England, together with the two major supra-regional providers in South Wales. The report illustrated the decrease during the peak COVID-19 periods, the level of potential harms to specialised services patients and the loss of financial value from the necessary national block contracting arrangements introduced to provide overall system stability.

Members **noted** the information presented in the reports.

13. Financial Performance Report – Month 2 2021-2022

Members received a paper the purpose of which was to provide the final outturn for the financial year. The financial position reported at Month 2 for WHSSC was a year-end outturn under spend of £3,364k.

The majority of this under spend relates to the English SLA forecast underspend which reflects the difference between the plan baseline and the agreed blocks for Q1 & Q2, 2020-2021 reserve releases and development slippage. There is a partial offset with the over spend in Mental Health at month 1 that includes high Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) CAMHS out of area (OOA) activity and an exceptional high cost medium secure patient with the forecast to plan.

Members **noted** the report.

14. Other reports

Members also **noted** update reports from the following joint Sub-committees and Advisory Groups:

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

