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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MAY 2021

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 11 May 2021. 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.

The papers for the meeting are available at:

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

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2021 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 the forthcoming early retirement of Kevin Smith, Committee Secretary, on 31 May, and his return part time for around five weeks from 7 June, and the appointment of his successor, Jacqueline Evans, from 1 June 2021.

The Report also referred members to the Chair's Actions taken to approve the appointment of Professor Ian Wells as an Independent Member of the Joint Committee with effect from 1 May 2021 for an initial term of two years.

In addition, the Chair reported that Emrys Elias had tendered his resignation with effect from 31 May 2021 and that a nomination had been received for a successor, whose appointment would be dealt with later in the week by Chair's Action.

Members (1) noted the contents of the report; (2) ratified the appointment of Jacqueline Evans as Committee Secretary with effect from 1 June 2021; and (3) ratify the Chair's Action appointing Prof Ian Wells.

Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director's report, including updates on:

- Opening of the interim Mother & Baby Unit at Tonna Hospital;
- The south Wales Thoracic Surgery Strategic Outline Case (SOC);
- The PET Programme Business Case;
- The status of the audit of the 2020-21 Accounts;
- De-escalation the SBUHB TAVI service from level 3 to level 2;
- Removal of the CVUHB Paediatric Intensive Care service from escalation; and
- Removal of the SBUHB Soft Tissue Sarcoma service from escalation, was taken as read.

It was agreed that SBUHB would circulate the Thoracic Surgery SOC to members.

South Wales Major Trauma Network (SWMTN) Update

Members received a presentation on the work of the SWTN from its opening in September 2020 to March 2021, which included a summary of the Delivery Assurance Group report. Members noted the content of the presentation and discussed elements of it in detail.

A further update will be provided to the Joint Committee meeting in six months' time.

Neonatal Transport Service for South and Mid Wales

Members received a paper that proposed a project structure and governance assurance framework as requested following Joint Committee's decision regarding the establishment of an Operational Delivery Network Transport Service for mid, west and south Wales in April 2021. It was noted that the proposed structure borrowed many features from the SWMTN model, which was regarded as exemplary.

Members noted (1) the proposed project management process and associated timeline; and (2) the draft commissioner assurance process, recognising that this would be subject to further discussion in the 'In Committee' section of the meeting and with the programme team.

Revised Risk Management Strategy

Members received a paper that presented the revised Risk Management Strategy (RMS) for WHSSC for approval and shared the latest version of the Corporate Risk Register for information.

Members (1) approved the revised Risk Management Strategy; (2) noted the latest version of the Corporate Risk Register; and (3) noted that further work is on-going to develop risk reporting in line with the RMS.

Activity Reports for Months 11 and 12 2020-21

Members received papers that highlighted the scale of the decrease in activity levels during the COVID-19 period, and whether there are any signs of recovery in specialised services activity. These activity decreases are shown in the context of the potential risk re patient harms and of the loss of value from nationally agreed financial block contract arrangements.

The Month 12 report been restructured from previous format to deal with specialties/areas on an all-Wales basis and would be developed further based on feedback received.

Members noted the information presented in the reports.

Financial Performance Report – Month 12 2020-21

Members received a paper the purpose of which was to provide the final outturn for the financial year. The financial position at was an under spend of £12.03m after making prudent provisions.

The under spend relates mainly to months 1-12 under spend on the pass through elements of NHS Wales provider SLA's, NHS England anticipated underperformance against agreed block contracts where provider activity is forecast at >20% below agreed baseline and Q1 – Q4 2020-21 development slippage. Owing to uncertainty regarding the pace of activity, recovery and timing of information flows from NHS England providers, WHSSC has adopted a prudent approach to providing for expenditure reductions that may arise from under-performance.

Members noted the content of the report.

Other reports

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

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

Standing Orders (SOs) and Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs)

The Committee Secretary reported that revised Model SOs and SFIs had recently been received from Welsh Government and that work was underway to review the WHSSC SOs and SFIs to propose any necessary changes. It was agreed that these would be the subject of a Chair's Action.

