

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

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 7 September 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 13 July 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. All Wales Genetics Service Improvement

Members received an informative presentation from the Consultant Clinical Scientist and Head of the All Wales Genetics Laboratory on the work of the All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS) and the positive developments made in genomics over the last 2 years.

Members **noted** the presentation.

4. Chair's Report

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

- the Chair's Year End Appraisal Review 2020-2021 with the Minister for Health & Social Services,
- that no chairs actions had been taken since the last meeting,
- the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC) held on the 10 August 2021,
- an update on discussions with Welsh Government and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) concerning WHSSC Independent Member Remuneration,
- that in future all Joint Committee "In –Committee" Reports will be shared with the NHS Wales Board Secretaries group,
- a verbal update on a request from the Chair of the NHS Wales Chairs group for the NHS Wales Board Secretaries group to review

the reporting and accountability arrangements at WHSSC and the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC).

Members **noted** the report.

5. Managing Director's Report

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

- the substantial assurance rating received for the WHSSC Cancer and Blood Programme Internal Audit Report,
- Planning undertaken in readiness for the COVID-19 Public Inquiry.

Members **noted** the report.

6. Commissioning Future New Services for Mid, South and West Wales

Members received a report to consider correspondence received from the NHS Wales Health Collaborative (Collaborative) for WHSSC to commission:

- Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Services;
- The Hepato-Cellular Carcinoma (HCC) MDT and;
- to develop a specialist orthopaedic paediatric service specification with a view to future commissioning of the service.

A request was also received from the CEOs of Swansea Bay and Cardiff and Vale University Health Boards (HBs) on behalf of the Collaborative to commission a spinal services operational delivery network (ODN) on behalf of the six HBs in Mid, South and West Wales.

Members:

- (1) **Noted** the requests received from the Collaborative Executive Group (CEG) requesting that WHSSC commissions Hepato- Pancreato-Biliary Services, the Hepato Cellular Carcinoma (HCC) MDT and develops a service specification for specialised paediatric orthopaedic surgery;
- (2) **Supported** the delegation of the commissioning responsibility for HPB services and the HCC MDT services, with the required resource mapped to WHSSC;
- (3) **Supported** that WHSSC develop a service specification for specialised paediatric orthopaedic surgery;
- (4) **Supported** in principle the delegation of Paediatric Orthopaedic surgery commissioning, if considered appropriate by the Joint Committee, following development of the service specification, to WHSSC;
- (5) **Supported** a request to commissioning health boards for approval of delegated commissioning authority to WHSSC as described above;
- (6) **Noted** that the required deadline for completing the development of the Paediatric Orthopaedic Service Specification is December 2021; and
- (7) **Approved** that WHSSC commission a spinal services operational delivery network (ODN) on behalf of the six Health Boards in Mid, South and West Wales. With the required funding identified and invested in through the 2022/25 Integrated Commissioning Plan.

7. WHSSC Workforce Capacity

Members received a report updating the Joint Committee on:

- requests and proposals for WHSSC to undertake new work related to services currently commissioned through Health Boards (HBs) or services which are new to Wales;
- updating the Joint Committee on workload challenges related to services currently commissioned through WHSSC,
- the range of opportunities to address the workload challenges through further development of the WHSS Team (WHSST) workforce;
- Seeking support for taking forward requests for additional investment.

Members (1) **Noted** the requests and proposals for WHSSC to undertake new work related to services currently commissioned through Health Boards (HBs) or services which are new to Wales; (2) **Noted** the workload challenges related to services currently commissioned through WHSSC; (3) **Noted** the opportunities for increasing WHSST capacity which have already been exploited; (4) **Supported** the request to Welsh Government (WG) for funding for additional project management support; (5) **Supported** the request to recharge the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (NCCU) for increased finance support; and (6) **Supported** the inclusion of an increased DRC requirement in the 2022-2023 Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP).

8. Recovery Planning – Quality and Outcome Improvement for Patients

Members received an informative presentation providing an update on WHSSC's approach to recovery planning with a particular emphasis on quality and outcome improvement for patients.

Members **noted** the presentation.

9. Major Trauma Priorities for in year use of Underspend and Resource Plan for 2022

Members received a report informing the Joint Committee of the current activity and performance of the Major Trauma Network, the current risks identified in the Network, the resources within the Network and how these were currently being utilised, and which sought support for underspends identified across the Network within this financial year to be used on a non-recurrent basis to address priorities identified by the Network which would be included in the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP).

Members discussed utilising the non-recurrent underspend across the network for priorities rather than solely in the major trauma centre. Following discussion it was agreed that a report be presented to the Management Group (MG) for further consideration.

Members (1) **Discussed** the issues in the report and requested that the proposal regarding the non-recurrent underspends, identified across the Network within this year be considered by the Management Group (MG) and that they should have delegated authority on the matter. Members accepted the principle that if the MG agreed to use the underspend within major trauma that this resource would be used across the Network; (2) **Discussed** which areas they wished to support for inclusion in the ICP and requested that further work be undertaken by MG regarding the relative priority of the proposals compared to other proposals in the plan and that their recommendations are included within the ICP for consideration by the Joint Committee

10. Review of Neonatal Cot Capacity and Neonatal Tariff

Members received a report providing an update on the number of neonatal intensive care and high dependency cots commissioned across the south Wales region, and the review of cot capacity in light of the high number of capacity transfers carried out by the transport and the neonatal tariff.

Members (1) **Supported** the proposed programme of works; (2) **Supported** the objectives of the review; (3) **Supported** the planned methodology for demand and capacity modelling; and (4) **Supported** the timelines for completion of the review.

11. Commissioning of Inherited White Matter Disorders Service (IWMDs)

Members received a report updating the Joint Committee on the development of a new Highly Specialised Service in NHS England for an Inherited White Matter Disorders Service (IWMDs), and which sought approval from the Joint Committee that WHSSC commissions the service for the population of Wales.

Members (1) **Noted** the development of a new highly specialised service for an Inherited White Matter Disorders Service (IWMDs) in NHS England; and (2) **Approved** the commissioning of the service for the population of Wales.

12. Syndrome without a Name (SWAN) Service Pilot

Members received a report requesting the ratification of the commissioning of a 2 year pilot of a Syndrome Without a Name (SWAN) service further to WHSSC receiving a request from Welsh Government.

Members (1) **Noted** the request from Welsh Government for WHSSC to commission a 2 year pilot for a Syndrome Without a Name (SWAN) service; (2) **Ratified** the commissioning of the pilot; and (3) **Approved** the intention to request that CVUHB hosts the pilot.

13. Commissioning Assurance Framework (CAF)

Members received a report which presented the Commissioning Assurance Framework (CAF) and the supporting suite of documents for final approval.

Members noted that the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2021-2022 was presented to the Joint Committee on 09 March 2021, a final draft of the ICP was considered and approved by Joint Committee at the Extraordinary Meeting on 16 February 2021, Section 13 of the ICP outlined that a new Commissioning Assurance Framework (CAF) would be introduced in 2021-2022 which would be supported by a Performance Assurance Framework, Risk Management Strategy, Escalation Process and a Patient Engagement & Experience Framework.

Members (1) **Approved** the Commissioning Assurance Framework (CAF); (2) **Approved** the Performance Assurance Framework; (3) **Approved** the WHSSC Escalation Process; (4) **Approved** the Patient Experience & Engagement Framework; and (5) **Noted** the Risk Management Strategy which was approved by the Joint Committee in May 2021.

14. Results of Annual Committee Self-Assessment 2020-2021

Members received a report presenting the findings of the annual Committee Effectiveness Self-assessment for 2020-2021.

Members (1) **Noted** the completed actions within the Committee Effectiveness Action plan 2019- 2020; (2) **Noted** the results of the Annual Committee Effectiveness Survey 2020-2021, and the action plan for 2020-2021, to be progressed via the Integrated Governance Committee; And (3) **Received** assurance that the Annual Committee Effectiveness Self-assessment for 2020-21 has been completed and that the appropriate actions have been agreed.

15. Sub-Committee Annual Reports 2020-21

Members received the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) and Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel Annual Reports 2020-2021.

Members **noted** the reports.

16. Activity Reports for Month 3 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.

Members **noted** the report.

17. Financial Performance Report – Month 4 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 4 for WHSSC is a year-end outturn forecast under spend of £4,804k.

Members **noted** the report.

18. Corporate Governance Matters

Members received a report providing an update on corporate governance matters arising since the previous meeting.

Members noted that this was a new report which would feature as a standing item on the agenda going forward to provide assurance to the Joint Committee on corporate governance matters.

Members **noted** the report.

19. Other reports

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

- Audit & Risk Committee;
- Management Group;
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee;
- Integrated Governance Committee;
- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request Panel;
- Welsh Renal Clinical Network.

