

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) EXTRAORDINARY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 13 FEBRUARY 2023

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 13 February 2023. This briefing sets out the key areas of consideration and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening within the Welsh Health Specialised Services.

The papers for the meeting can be accessed at:

[2022/2023 Meeting Papers - Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/whsc/2022-2023-meeting-papers-welsh-health-specialised-services-committee)

1. Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2023-2024

Members received a presentation and report presenting the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2023-2024 for approval.

Members noted that the ICP had been updated following the Joint Committee ICP workshop on 10 January 2023 and the Management Group (MG) meeting on 26 January 2023 during which the MG considered the Clinical Impact Assessment Group (CIAG) process and horizon scanning prioritisation, strategy planning assumptions, performance assumptions and contingency planning to cover in year pressures and risks. After consideration, a significant number of disinvestments and recommissioning actions were identified, and an assessment of associated risks had also been undertaken as a consequence of the revised position.

Members noted that the indicative 1% shared system savings target was presented in addition to the financial core uplift of 3.11% and that this would be managed through a set of cross cutting commissioning schemes that will be developed and impact assessed. To support this a programme will be developed focussing on further planning and recommissioning work across pathways, working closely with Health Boards (HBs) to firm up schemes, and to explore the opportunities of the new Clinical Networks structure concerning pathway redesign.

Members agreed to approve the ICP in readiness for inclusion in HB Integrated Medium Term Plans (IMTPs). Members requested that an outline governance system and process for the Joint Committee to monitor achievement of the 1% WHSSC and HB shared pathway savings target be brought back to the Joint Committee for approval on 14 March 2023.

Members (1) **Noted** that the Plan has been finalised following the Joint Committee meeting on 17 January 2023, and subsequent discussions at Management Group, (2) **Approved** the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2023-2024 for submission to Welsh Government; and (3) **Approved** the requirements of the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) for inclusion in Health Board Integrated Medium Term Plans (IMTPs); (4) **Agreed** that an outline governance system and process for the Joint Committee to monitor achievement of the 1% WHSSC and HB shared pathway savings target be brought back to the Joint Committee for approval on 14 March 2023.

2. Any other Business

Members also **noted** updates on other matters of business as follows:

- **WHSSC proposed policy changes to Specialist Fertility Services - CP37, Pre-implantation Genetic Testing-Monogenic Disorders, Commissioning Policy & CP38, Specialist Fertility Services: Assisted Reproductive Medicine, Commissioning Policy** – members noted that in an effort to provide better fertility service provision for Wales and more effective outcomes for patients, two fertility policies had been reviewed and were issued for consultation in accordance with the process outlined in the WHSSC 'Policy for Policies' (which aligns to the process used by NICE and the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)). The consultation documents were sent directly to a wide stakeholder group via email and the consultation was also signposted on the WHSSC website. Some of the proposals had roused concern amongst affected patient groups, which resulted in negative inaccurate reporting in the press. In addition, the Board of Community Health Councils (CHCs) in Wales had written to WHSSC concerning the policy consultation process and their interpretation that the process related to a service change for patients and that Section 183 of the National Health Services (Wales) Act 2006 applied. WHSSC had discussed the matter with them and the interpretation of public law and that WHSSC were seeking legal advice regarding this complex area and the potential implications for other policy consultation processes undertaken by NICE and NHSE.
- **TransVision Cymru – Letter and WHSSC Response** – members noted that Transvision Cymru had written to a number of Joint Committee members advising that they wanted Welsh Government to help resolve issues faced by transgender children and young people in Wales by extending the Welsh Gender Service (WGS) to under 18s. WHSSC had issued a response letter advising that WHSSC commissions gender identity services for children and young people through NHS England (NHSE) and at this time had no plans to change the commissioning arrangements in the absence of the conclusion of the Cass Review. In line with the

recommendations of the Cass Review interim report and in recognition that the needs of children and young people are very different to those of adults, any service in Wales would need to be led by a Specialist Children's Hospital. This would mean that the Children's Hospital for Wales would be the lead and not the Adult WGS. Early preparatory discussions had commenced with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) regarding future proposals. In addition, the interim NHSE Specialist Service for Children & Young People with Gender Dysphoria (Phase 1 providers) service specification was consulted upon in 2022 and the outcome of the consultation report and final service specification are awaited.



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