



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

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

## **WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) EXTRAORDINARY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 10 JANUARY 2023**

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 10 January 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:

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

### **1. Single Commissioner for Secure Mental Health Proposal**

Members received a report presenting the feedback received from Health Boards (HBs) on the options assessment for a single national organisation to commission integrated secure mental health services for Wales and to request support for the recommended course of action to be given to Welsh Government (WG) to achieve a single commissioner for secure mental health services in Wales.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the feedback received from the seven Health Boards (HBs) on the options assessment circulated by the WHSSC team, (3) **Noted** that six of the seven Health Boards (HBs) supported WHSSC as the single commissioner with one HB raising concerns regarding the need for a single commissioner, (4) **Noted** that feedback emphasised a number of issues which would need to be addressed to ensure successful implementation of the change; and (5) **Supported** the following recommendations going forward to Welsh Government:

- That secure mental health services in Wales should be commissioned by WHSSC,
- That a national programme of work, including representatives from Welsh Government, WHSSC and all the seven Health Boards (HBs) should be set up to manage the transfer of the commissioning of low secure services; and
- That more detailed work needs to be done to define the appropriate timescales but that the programme of work is unlikely to be completed before April 2024 at the earliest.

## **2. Audit Wales WHSSC Committee Governance Arrangements – Update**

Members received a report providing an update on progress against the recommendations outlined in the Audit Wales WHSSC Committee Governance Arrangements report.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the progress made against WHSSC management responses to the Audit Wales recommendations outlined in the WHSSC Committee Governance Arrangements report, (3) **Noted** the progress made against the Welsh Government responses to the Audit Wales recommendations outlined in the WHSSC Committee Governance Arrangements report; and (5) **Noted** that a further update on progress will be brought to the May 2023 Joint Committee meeting; thereafter an update will be submitted to Audit Wales and to HB Audit Committees for assurance in June/July 2023.

## **3. Preparedness for the COVID-19 Public Inquiry**

Members received a report providing an update on WHSSC's preparedness for the COVID-19 Public Inquiry.

Members **noted** the report.

## **4. Review of Financial Limits and Reporting**

Members received a report requesting that the increased financial delegation limits introduced in March 2020 to enable effective financial governance as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic were approved as new permanent limits.

Members discussed the report and noted that discussion had been held with HB finance colleagues on the proposed approach. Members advised they were in agreement to approve the recommendations, subject to further discussion with the HB Board Secretaries.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the rationale for the increase in financial delegation limits as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, (3) **Approved** the updated financial authorisation matrix, which includes the increased financial delegation limits introduced in March 2020 to enable effective financial governance as a consequence of the COVID-19, (4) **Approved** the updated process for the current SFI requirement for Joint Committee "approval" of non-contract cases above defined limits for annual and anticipated lifetime cost, to be replaced by an assurance report to Joint Committee and the CTMUHB Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) notifying of all approvals above the defined limit and Chairs action to reflect the need for timely approval action, subject to further discussion with the HB Board Secretaries. (5) **Noted** that the Standing Financial Instructions (SFI's), and the scheme of delegation will be updated to reflect the changes; and (6) **Noted** that the updated scheme of delegation and the financial matrix will be appended to the SFI's for completeness.



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Tim Gwasanaethau Iechyd  
Arbenigol Cymru  
Welsh Health Specialised  
Services Team

