

## **WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 8 NOVEMBER 2022**

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on the 8 November 2022. 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. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 September 2022 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. Draft Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2023-2026**

Members received an informative presentation on the draft Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2023-2026.

Members discussed the financial elements of the plan and noted the constrained economic environment, recovery challenges and the volatile inflationary pressures. Members noted that the draft ICP was brought to Joint Committee early on in the planning process in order to support Health Boards (HBs) in developing their own Integrated Medium Term Plans (IMTPs), and that WHSSC will work closely with HBs to develop the ICP in line with HB expectations.

Members **noted** the presentation and that the final plan will be considered at the next meeting 17 January 2023.

### **4. Recovery Update (incl Progress with Paediatric Surgery)**

Members received a presentation providing an update on recovery trajectories since the workshops held with the Joint Committee on the 12 July and 6 September 2022.

Member noted updates on recovery trajectories for paediatric surgery recovery and recovery in key speciality areas including for the six accountability conditions specialities – cardiac, neurosurgery, paediatric surgery, bariatrics, thoracics and plastics.

Members **noted** the presentation and that a further recovery update will be provided at the next meeting 17 January 2023.

## 5. Chair's Report

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

- The recommendation to appoint two new WHSSC Independent Members (IMs) following a fair and open selection process,
- The recommendation to extend the tenure of the of the Interim Chair of the All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel until 31 March 2023,
- Attendance at the Integrated Governance Committee 11 October 2022; and
- Key meetings attended.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the recommendations to appoint two new WHSSC Independent Members (IMs) from 1 December 2022 for a period of 2 years; and (3) **Approved** the recommendation to extend the tenure of the Interim Chair for the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) panel until 31 March 2023.

## 6. Managing Director's Report

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

- **Paediatric Radiology Consultant Recruitment** - units in NHS England (NHSE) had agreed to host NHS Wales funded paediatric radiology training posts for trainees on the Wales Radiology Training Programme. HEIW are taking this forward,
- **Cochlear Implant and Bone Conduction Hearing Implant Hearing Device Service – Engagement Process Update** – Further to the HBs agreeing the approach for engagement at their Board meetings in September 2022, it was planned that the engagement process would commence on 24 October 2022, however this had unfortunately been delayed and the engagement will now commence in November,
- **Evaluation of 4th Thoracic Surgeon activity** - WHSSC supporting the appointment of a 4th consultant surgeon post in CVUHB to provide continued support for the Major Trauma Centre (MTC) and to support the future needs of the service; and
- **Briefing Duty of Candour and Duty of Quality** – WHSSC received a briefing from Welsh Government (WG) on the Health & Social Care (Quality & Engagement) (Wales) Act 2022 with a specific focus on the consultation process for the duty of candour and the soon to be launched consultation process on the duty of quality.

Members **noted** the report.

## 7. Delivering Thrombectomy Capacity in South Wales

Members received a report outlining WHSSC's position on the commissioning of Mechanical Thrombectomy for the population of Wales.

Members noted the proposed plan for a Mechanical Thrombectomy service at the Neurosciences centre, CVUHB and that WHSSC continued to work with CVUHB to progress the Business Case to develop a Mechanical Thrombectomy centre in south Wales and the financial model had been shared and was being worked through. It was proposed that the service would be implemented in a phased approach over a number of years.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the WHSSC Position Statement on the Commissioning of Mechanical Thrombectomy and **requested** that a revised report be brought back to the Joint Committee to include additional detail on the networked approach, interdependencies around the network approach and to include additional elements concerning the stroke pathway, (3) **Noted** the associated risks with the current delivery model for Welsh stroke patients requiring access to tertiary Thrombectomy centres; and (4) **Noted** the NHS Wales Health Collaborative (NWHC) proposal to strengthen and improve regional clinical stroke pathways in Wales to support the Mechanical Thrombectomy pathway to ensure that patients receive this time-critical procedure in a timely manner.

## 8. Mental Health Strategy Development

Members received a report advising the Joint Committee of the stakeholder feedback received from the engagement exercise for the Specialised Services Strategy for Mental Health and outline the next steps and proposals to move into implementation of the strategy from April 2023.

Members discussed the need for the demand and capacity work to inform the final version of the strategy and to ensure that it is focussed on delivering sustainable services which offer value for money.

Members (1) **Noted** the stakeholder feedback received from the 12-week engagement exercise on the draft Specialist Mental Health Strategy; and (2) **Agreed** the proposals to:

- Undertake an 8 week consultation process using the draft consultation document,
- Commission demand and capacity modelling with immediate effect; and
- Develop a programme approach to implementation of the Strategy following the consultation exercise; and

(3) **Noted** that the final version of the strategy and the timescales for implementation will need to take into account the demand and capacity modelling.

## **9. Single Commissioner for Secure Mental Health Services**

### **Proposal**

Members received a report presenting the options for a single national organisation to commission integrated secure mental health services for Wales for HBs to consider. The report had been prepared following a request received from WG for the WHSSC Joint Committee to provide the mechanism for the recommendation from the "Making Days Count" review to be considered, and for the Joint Committee to make a recommendation to WG on the preferred option.

Members discussed the report and agreed to share the report with HB colleagues and for a response to the options appraisal to be sent to WHSSC by the end of December 2022 in readiness for the Joint Committee meeting 17 January 2023.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Considered** the options for a single national organisation to commission integrated Secure Mental Health Services for Wales; and (3) **Agreed** to share the report with HB colleagues and for a response to the options appraisal to be sent to WHSSC by the end of December 2022; and (4) **Noted** that the proposal will return to the Joint Committee for decision on 17 January 2023.

## **10. Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS)**

Members received a report updating members about the Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) for Children and Young People including what the changes mean for children and young people in Wales and next steps.

Members (1) **Noted** the information presented within the report; and (2) **Noted** the information presented at Appendix 1 regarding the decommissioning of the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust (TPNFT) and the NHS England (NHSE) transformation programme.

## **11. Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR) Engagement Update**

Members received a report seeking support for the proposed engagement process for the WHSSC Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) panel Terms of Reference (ToR) and the specific and limited review of the all Wales IPFR policy.

Members noted that the engagement process would commence on the 10 November 2022 for a 6 week period with key stakeholders, including the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC), the IPFR Quality Assurance Advisory Group (QAG), the Medical Directors and the Board Secretaries of each of the HBs and Velindre University NHS Trust (VUNT).

Members noted that the process adhered to the specific request from WG for the engagement for the IPFR panel ToR and the specific and limited review of the All Wales IPFR Policy.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Supported** the proposed process for engagement for the WHSSC Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) panel Terms of Reference (ToR) and the specific and limited review of the all Wales IPFR policy.

## **12. COVID-19 Period Activity Report for Month 5 2022-2023**

### **COVID-19 Period**

Members received a report that highlighted the scale of the decrease in activity levels during the peak COVID-19 period and whether there were any signs of recovery in specialised services activity.

Members **noted** the report.

## **13. Financial Performance Report – Month 6 2022-2023**

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 6 2022-2023. The financial position was reported against the 2022-2023 baselines following approval of the 202-2023 WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) by the Joint Committee in February 2022.

The financial position reported at Month 6 for WHSSC is a year-end outturn forecast under spend of £13,711k.

Members **noted** the current financial position and forecast year-end position.

## **14. Corporate Governance Matters**

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

Members **noted** the report.

## **15. Other reports**

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

- Management Group (MG),
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC),
- Integrated Governance Committee (IGC),
- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel

## **16. Any Other Business**

- **Skin Camouflage Pilot Service** – members noted that on 28 October 2022 WHSSC received a formal request from WG following agreement at the NHS Wales Leadership Board (NWLB) for WHSSC to commission the national skin camouflage pilot service. This service will support the national commitment to “Pledge to be Seen”. A further formal update will be provide at the next meeting,
- **CMTUHB Audit Lead Independent Member (IM)** – on behalf of the Joint Committee the Chair formally thanked Ian Wells, IM

CTMUHB for all of his support since he was appointed as CTMUHB audit lead for WHSSC eighteen months ago. The Chair advised that he had been an invaluable member of the team and that WHSSC were extremely grateful to him for his commitment of time and effort, which was especially notable given his normal HB responsibilities; and

- **Retirement of CEO BCUHB** – The Chair acknowledged what would have been Joe Whitehead’s last meeting with the Joint Committee, and on behalf of the Joint Committee offered thanks for her time and commitment to the Joint Committee’s business and wished her well in her retirement.



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES  
Tim Gwasanaethau Iechyd  
Arbenigol Cymru  
Welsh Health Specialised  
Services Team

