

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 6 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on the 6 September 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 12 July 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. Major Trauma Presentation

Members received an informative presentation on the South Wales major trauma network, which was launched in September 2020. Members noted the comprehensive evaluation process which was underway to review the effectiveness of the network over the last 18 Months.

Members **noted** the progress made.

4. Specialised Services Strategy Presentation and Report

Members received a report and a presentation on the planned development of a ten year strategy for specialised services for the residents of Wales, and to describe the proposed approach to communication and engagement with key stakeholders to support its development.

Members **approved** the overall approach to developing a ten year strategy for specialised services and provide feedback on the key documents presented.

5. Recovery Update Paediatrics – Presentation

Members received a presentation providing an update on recovery trajectories for paediatric services across NHS Wales, following a request from the JC on the 12 July 2022.

Members **noted** the presentation.

6. Chair's Report

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

- Chair's Action taken to appoint James Hehir, Independent Member (IM), CTMUHB as the Interim Chair of the All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel,
- The recruitment process to appoint two new WHSSC IM's,
- Attendance at the Integrated Governance Committee 9 August 2022; and
- Key meetings attended.

Members (1) **noted** the report; and (2) **Ratified** the Chairs action taken.

7. Managing Director's Report

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

- The Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2022-2025 being accepted by the Minister for Health & Social Services,
- A letter received from Welsh Government concerning a review of Secure Services and consideration of a Single Commissioner for Mental Health Services,
- the Managing Director of WHSSC being designated as the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for an All-Wales Molecular Radiotherapy (MRT) Programme,
- That feedback on the Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2022-2028 will be presented to the Joint Committee in November 2022,
- WHSSC receiving approval through the Value in Healthcare Bid – for an Advanced Therapy Medicinal product (ATMP) and for the Welsh Kidney Network (WKN) to provide an all Wales Pre-rehabilitation Programme to support kidney patients to choose and commence the treatment that offers them the best outcomes,
- Work being undertaken to monitor TAVI (Transcatheter aortic valve implantation) activity increases; and
- The appointment of an interim Director of Mental Health & Vulnerable Groups.

Members **noted** the report.

8. Neonatal Transport – Update from the Delivery Assurance Group (DAG)

Members received a report providing an update from the Neonatal Transport Delivery Assurance Group (DAG).

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the update on the progress of the implementation of the Neonatal Transport Operational Delivery Network (ODN); and (3) **Received assurance** that the Neonatal

Transport service delivery and outcomes is being scrutinised by the Delivery Assurance Group (DAG).

9. Specialised Paediatric Services 5 year Commissioning Strategy

Members received a report providing an update on the Specialised Paediatric Services 5 year Commissioning Strategy which was recently issued for a stakeholder feedback for a period of 4 weeks. The Joint Committee were requested to note the comments received, the WHSSC responses and the updated strategy for final publication.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the proposed final version of the strategy; and (3) **Supported** the proposed next steps.

10. South Wales Cochlear Implant and BAHA Hearing Implant Device Service

Members received a report presenting an update on discussions with the Management Group regarding the process and outcome of a recent review of the South Wales Cochlear Implant and BAHA Hearing Implant Device Service. The report also presented the proposed next steps including a period of targeted engagement on the future configuration of the Service.

Members noted that on the 28 July 2022 the Management Group discussed the preferred commissioning options as the basis of engagement/consultation and had supported the preferred commissioning option of a single implantable device hub for Cochlear and BAHA for both children and adults with an outreach support model.

Members noted that a report would need to be submitted to HB Board meeting in September 2022 to seek support from Boards on engagement with Health Board residents (each report will include CHC views from the relevant HB area).

Members (1) **Supported** the management group recommendation, (2) **Agreed** the process to be followed (as advised by the Board of CHCs), (3) **Agreed** the content of the engagement materials as the basis of targeted engagement, (4) **Advised** on processes for individual Health Boards; and (5) **Noted** the EQIA.

11. Designation of Provider Framework

Members received a report seeking approval to adopt the Designation of Provider Framework as the WHSS team methodology for evaluating the appropriateness of Health Care Providers to become a designated provider of Highly Specialised and Specialised Services.

Members noted that the Designation of a Provider of Specialised Services Framework had been developed as part of the WHSSC Commissioning Assurance Framework (CAF).

Members (1) **Noted** the report and (2) **Approved** the Designation of Provider Framework as the WHSS team methodology for evaluating the appropriateness of health care providers.

12. Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR) Governance Update

Members received a report providing an update on discussions with Welsh Government (WG) regarding the All Wales Independent Patient Funding Requests (IPFR) Policy and the work undertaken to update the terms of reference (ToR) of the WHSSC IPFR Panel. The report asked for support to undertake an engagement process on updating the ToR and a specific and limited review of the All Wales IPFR policy.

Members (1) **Noted** that Welsh Government (WG) had confirmed that as the All Wales Independent Patient Funding Requests (IPFR) Panel is a sub-committee of the WHSSC Joint Committee, it is within its authority to update and approve the terms of reference (ToR), (2) **Noted** that Welsh Government had confirmed that WHSSC could embark on an engagement process with key stakeholders to update the WHSSC IPFR Panel Terms of Reference (ToR) and to engage on a specific and limited review of the All Wales IPFR Policy, (3) **Approved** the proposal for WHSSC to embark on an engagement process with key stakeholders, including the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre, IPFR Quality Assurance Advisory Group (AWTTC QAG), the Medical Directors, Directors of Public Health and the Board Secretaries of each of the Health Boards (HBs) and Velindre University NHS Trust (VUNT), to update the WHSSC IPFR Panel Terms of Reference (ToR) and on the specific and limited review of the All Wales IPFR Policy; and (4) **Noted** that the revised documents will need to be supported by the Joint Committee prior to referral to the Health Boards for final approval; and as requested in the letter of 28th July the revised documents will be shared with Welsh Government.

13. WHSSC Annual Report 2021-2022

Members received the WHSSC Annual Report 2021-2022.

Members **approved** the WHSSC Annual Report 2021-2022.

14. COVID-19 Period Activity Report for Month 3 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.

15. Financial Performance Report – Month 4 2022-2023

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 4 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 4 for WHSSC was a year-end outturn forecast under spend of £12,693k.

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

16. 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.

17. Other reports

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

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

