

## **WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 14 MARCH 2023**

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 14 March 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/whsssc/2022/2023-Meeting-Papers-Welsh-Health-Specialised-Services-Committee)

### **1. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 January 2023, 17 January 2023, and 13 February 2023 were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to one minor amendment.

### **2. Action log & matters arising**

Members **noted** the progress on the actions outlined on the action log.

### **3. Governance System and Process – WHSSC & HB Shared Pathway Saving Target**

Members received a presentation on the outline governance system and process for the Joint Committee to monitor achievement of the 1% WHSSC and HB shared pathway savings target, which had been requested following the Joint Committee approving the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2023-2024 on 13 February 2023.

Members noted that WHSSC had applied a programme management approach to establishing a mechanism to monitor savings and efficiencies and had developed a Project Initiation Document (PID) outlining that a Programme Board be established comprising of representatives from each Health Board (HB). The PID had been shared with the Management Group in readiness for detailed discussion on the 23 March 2023.

Members noted that updates on progress would be provided as a standing item on the agenda for future Joint Committee meetings.

Members **noted** the presentation.

#### 4. Chair's Report

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

- The Chair's Action taken on 2 February 2023 to approve urgent patient expenditure for Advanced Medicinal Therapeutic Products (AMTPs) through the Blueteq High Cost Drugs (HCD) software programme,
- The request to extend the interim Chair of the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel from 31 March 2023 to 30 September 2023,
- That the Minister for Health & Social Services had approved a review of the national commissioning functions, linked to the commitment within a "Healthier Wales" on a set of actions to strengthen and streamline the NHS landscape in Wales. Members noted that the joint workshop between EASC and WHSSC planned for 14 March 2023 to enable a facilitated discussion on the review had been postponed as the independent facilitator had been taken ill; and
- Key meetings attended.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Ratified** the Chair's action taken on 2 February 2023 to approve expenditure for Advanced Medicinal Therapeutic Products (AMTPs) through the Blueteq High Cost Drugs (HCD) software programme; and (3) **Approved** the recommendation to extend the tenure of the interim Chair of the Individual Patient Funding Request Panel (IPFR) to 30 September 2023 to ensure business continuity.

#### 5. Managing Director's Report

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

- **Plastic Surgery Outreach Clinics in BCUHB: Update on Quality Concerns** - During the plastic surgery workshop held with the Management Group on 22 September 2022 to consider the future commissioning model for plastic surgery, significant quality concerns were raised by the clinical leads from St Helen's & Knowsley NHS Trust (SHKNT). Since then further concerns were raised during an SLA meeting in February 2023, WHSSC has discussed the issues with colleagues in Welsh Government (WG), and it was agreed that, given the issues did not lie directly within the WHSSC commissioning responsibility, WG will lead on the escalation process but in liaison with WHSSC. In addition, a Harm Review has been commissioned by BCUHB and the Terms of Reference (ToR) are in the process of being signed off through internal HB processes,
- **Cochlear Implant and Bone Conduction Hearing Implant Hearing Device Service – Engagement Process Update** - the formal engagement ran between 4 January 2023 and 14 February 2023. The consultation feedback is now being analysed and will be presented to members at the Joint Committee meeting on 16 May 2023; and

- **Spinal Operational Delivery Network (ODN)** - The implementation of the Spinal Operational Delivery Network (ODN) has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. A more detailed update will be presented to the Joint Committee meeting on 16 May 2023.

Members **noted** the report.

## **6. 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 (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the WHSSC Position Statement on the Commissioning of Mechanical Thrombectomy, (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.

## **7. Eating Disorder In-Patient Provision for Adults**

Members received a report outlining the medium-term options for adult inpatient eating disorder placements following the end of the contract for eating disorder services between WHSSC and Oxford Health NHS Trust (OHNT) and the current interim arrangements.

Members (1) **Noted** the information presented within the report to progress tendering and procurement options with the independent sector in line with service need for Welsh patients requiring specialist eating disorder services, (2) **Noted** the medium-term options for adult inpatient eating disorder placements following the end of the contract for eating disorder services between WHSSC and Oxford Health NHS Trust (OHNT) and the current interim arrangements; and (3) **Received assurance** that there are robust processes in place to ensure delivery of eating disorder services for adults.

In addition, it was agreed to bring the tender specification back to a future meeting to provide assurance to the JC regarding the quality requirements of the new service.

## **8. Neonatal Transport ODN – Additional Funding Release**

Members received a report advising that the Management Group approved the release of £125k for the establishment of the Neonatal Transport Operational Delivery Network (ODN) for Swansea Bay UHB as the host provider in December 2022, and which sought approval from the Joint Committee for an additional £54k of funding to bridge the shortfall from the original funding request from SBUHB and to allow the implementation of the ODN to proceed.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Approved** the release of an additional £54k funding for the Neonatal Transport ODN to allow the implementation of the Operational Delivery Network (ODN) to proceed.

### **9. Neonatal Cot Configuration Project**

Members received a report outlining the outcomes of the Neonatal Cot Configuration project, the proposed preferred option as recommended by the Project Board and seeking approval for the required long-term next steps.

Members discussed the need for broader discussion linked to interdependencies with maternity services and other core paediatric services, in developing the next steps. The challenges associated with meeting the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM) standards and the historic work previously undertaken through the South Wales plan were also discussed.

Members (1) **Noted** the background within the report, (2) **Noted** the outcomes of the Neonatal Cot Configuration Project, (3) **Noted** the financial assessment, (4) **Noted** the preferred option of the Project Board, (5) **Approved** the recommended preferred option and the release of funding in line with the provision within the 2022/25 Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) as an interim measure; and (6) **Did not Approve** the recommendation of the Management Group for a phase 2 programme of works to be undertaken, but agreed that the NHS Wales Directors of Planning Group consider the approach to reviewing the neonatal service model, aligning with Health Boards' strategic plans, regional work, and key service interdependencies. The output of the discussion to be brought back to the Joint Committee in May.

### **10. IPFR Engagement Update – ToR and All Wales Policy**

Members received a report presenting the outcomes from the WHSSC engagement process with key stakeholders to update the WHSSC Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel Terms of Reference (ToR) and on the specific and limited review of the All Wales IPFR Policy.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the feedback received from the WHSSC engagement process with key stakeholders to update the WHSSC Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel Terms of Reference (ToR) and on the specific and limited review of the All Wales IPFR Policy, (3) **Approved** the proposed changes to the WHSSC IPFR Panel ToR, (4) **Noted** that the additional feedback on the specific and limited review of the All Wales IPFR Policy is being reviewed and an update will be presented to the Joint Committee on 16 May 2023; and (5) **Noted** that when the limited review of the policy was completed and approved by the Joint Committee, the updated All Wales IPFR Policy (including the WHSSC ToR) will go to each Health Board (HB) for final approval.

## **11. WHSSC Governance & Accountability Framework – SOs and SFIs**

Members received a report providing an update on the WHSSC Governance and Accountability Framework.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the proposed changes to the Standing Orders (SOs), prior to being issued to the seven HBs for approval and inclusion as schedule 4.1 within their respective HB SOs, (3) **Approved** the proposed changes of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) and Hosting Agreement in place with CTMUHB, prior to being issued to the seven HBs for approval and inclusion as schedule 4.1 within their respective HB SOs; and (4) **Approved** the proposed changes to the financial scheme of delegation and financial authorisation matrix updating the Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs).

## **12. Performance & Activity Report Month 9 2022-2023**

Members received a report that highlighted the scale of the decrease in activity levels during the peak COVID-19 period, and outlining signs of recovery in specialised services activity. The activity decreases were shown in the context of the potential risk regarding patient harms and of the loss of value from nationally agreed financial block contract arrangements

Members **noted** the report.

## **13. Financial Performance Report – Month 10 2022-2023**

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 10 2022-2023. The financial position was reported against the 2022-2023 baselines following approval of the 2022-2023 WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) by the Joint Committee in February 2022.

The financial position reported at Month 10 for WHSSC is a year-end outturn forecast under spend of (£14.353m). Members noted that the under spend predominantly relates to releasable reserves of (£18m) arising from 2021-2022 as a result of WHSSC assisting Health Boards manage resources over financial years on a planned basis, as HBs could not absorb underspends above their own forecasts and to ensure the most effective use of system resources.

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

#### 14. Neonatal Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) Update

Members received a report providing a summary of South Wales Neonatal Transport Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) Report for July-November 2022.

Members (1) **Noted** the information in the report; and (2) **Received assurance** that the Neonatal Transport service delivery and outcomes were being scrutinised by the Delivery Assurance Group (DAG).

#### 15. 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.

#### 16. Other reports

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

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

