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Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)  
Welsh Health Specialised  
Services Committee (WHSSC)

## **WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 30 JANUARY 2024**

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 30 January 2024. 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 using the link below:  
[2023/2024 Joint Committee - Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/2023/2024-Joint-Committee-Welsh-Health-Specialised-Services-Committee)

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

The minutes of the meetings held on the 21 November 2023 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. Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP)**

Members received a report and a presentation presenting the 2024-2025 Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) for approval prior to its submission to Welsh Government in line with NHS Wales planning requirements.

Members (1) **Noted** the report and presentation; and (2) **Discussed** the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2024-2025 prior to its submission to Welsh Government, and agreed that further discussion be undertaken with the Management Group and other colleagues on the clinical effectiveness, access, demand and choices available as well as consideration of any agreed position regarding the handling of the inflationary uplift. The plan should then be brought back to an extraordinary Joint Committee for approval in February 2024.

### **4. Commissioning of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) in Wales**

Members received a report and a presentation providing an update on the Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product (ATMP) landscape highlighting the additional implications that are associated with them, and to set out a proposed ATMP commissioning framework that will inform implementation plans.

Members (1) **Noted** the presentation, (2) **Noted** the report, (3) **Noted** the current and future Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product (ATMP)

positions and implementation progress to date, (4) **Noted** that further discussions are required to define the strategic partnership between the Advanced Therapies Wales Programme and WHSSC to determine the future balance of responsibilities, (5) **Noted** the development of a strategic partnership with NHS England for the provision of ATMPs for rare indications with low patient numbers, (6) **Noted** the proposed ATMP Commissioning Framework (Appendix 1), (7) **Noted** the development of an ATMP Commissioning Strategy for Wales; and (8) **Supported** that WHSSC (and from April 2024 its successor organisation, the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee) commission all NICE recommended ATMPs, including those recommended before May 2018.

## 5. Chair's Report

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

- **Key Meetings attended.**

Members **noted** the report.

## 6. Managing Director's Report

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

- **The increased thrombectomy access for Welsh patients in Bristol** - North Bristol NHS Trust have informed WHSSC that from 15 January 2024 they are able to offer access to thrombectomy for Welsh patients from 6.00am to 12.00am, with the last referral being accepted at 9.00pm in order that procedures can be completed by 12.00am. Currently the service accepts patients at 8.00am. Access to thrombectomy is increasing in south Wales with an average between December 2023 to June 2024 of 3.3 patients per month and for July to November 2023 an average of 6.0 patients per month. However, the overall annual rate is 2.18% of stroke patients accessing thrombectomy which is still well below the target of 12.5%; and
- **NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee Implementation** WHSSC were informed at the National Commissioning Review Oversight Board that it is unlikely that the Organisational Change Policy (OCP) process will be complete by 1 April 2024 and therefore a transitional model will be put in place. Development of the model will be undertaken by Welsh Government with 'sign off' by the Director General of NHS Wales. This work will be completed in the next few weeks.

Members **noted** the report.

## 7. Delivering Mechanical Thrombectomy Capacity in South Wales (Phase 1)

Members received a report seeking approval to establish phase 1 of a regional Mechanical Thrombectomy (MT) centre in South Wales.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the financial framework to support the development of a Mechanical Thrombectomy centre for South Wales, (3) **Noted** the benefits and risks associated with the investment, (4) **Approved** the funding to establish Phase 1 of a local Thrombectomy service for the South Wales region as included in the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2024/25; and (5) **Approved** the proposal for a post-implementation commissioning evaluation for Phase 1 of the commissioned service.

### **8. WHSSC Cardiac Review – Outcomes of Phase 1**

Members received a summary on the outcomes of Phase 1 of the WHSSC Cardiac Review, which sought to: re-baseline the South Wales Trans-catheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) and cardiac surgery contracts to ensure that they better reflect potential demand; and assess the extent to which, in view of recent trends and differential valve costs, the TAVI policy remains both adhered to and apposite. In January 2023 the Joint Committee agreed that Phase 1 of the review would be completed by the end of Q3 2023/24, and that it would be followed by a second phase focussed on the future configuration of WHSSC commissioned TAVI and cardiac surgery.

Members (1) **Noted** the findings of Phase 1 of the WHSSC Cardiac Review, (2) **Noted** that the proposed revised Trans-catheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) and cardiac surgery contract baselines be used as the basis for negotiations with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) and Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB), (3) **Noted** the finding that the current WHSSC TAVI Commissioning Policy remains both adhered to and apposite; and (4) **Noted** the work ongoing to clarify and reduce TAVI valve costs.

### **9. Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2024/25-2028/29**

Members received a report presenting the final WHSSC Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2024/25- 2028/29 and to outline the governance structure for the implementation programme.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Approved** the WHSSC Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2024/25-2028/29.

### **10. All Wales PET Programme Progress Report**

Members received a report providing an update on several issues facing the Projects within the All Wales Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Programme.

Members (1) **Noted** the proposed actions regarding escalation to the Sponsor (Section 3.3.4), (2) **Noted** the issues and risks facing the projects; and (3) **Noted** the progress made by the Work streams and other enabling activities.

## **11. Business Continuity Risks Related to the Establishment of the Joint Commissioning Committee**

Members received a report outlining the business continuity risks for specialised services commissioning associated with the establishment of the new NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee on 1 April 2024.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Noted** the risks associated with the implementation of the new NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee, and noted that the WHSSC Corporate Risk Assurance Framework (CRAF) will be updated to include the risks to specialised service business continuity.

## **12. Corporate Risk Assurance Framework (CRAF)**

Members received a report presenting WHSSC's updated Corporate Risk Assurance Framework (CRAF) and outline the risks scoring 15 or above on the commissioning teams and directorate risk registers.

Members (1) **Noted** the updated Corporate Risk Assurance Framework (CRAF) and changes to the risks outlined in this report as at 31 December 2023, (2) **Approved** the CRAF as at 31 December 2023; and (3) **Noted** that the CRAF is presented to each Integrated Governance Committee, Quality & Patient Safety Committee, CTMUHB Audit & Risk Committee and the Risk Scrutiny Group (RSG) meetings.

## **13. WHSSC Integrated Performance Report – November 2023**

Members received a report providing a summary of the performance of WHSSC's commissioned services. Further detail including splits by resident Health Board (HB) was provided in an accompanying Power BI Dashboard report.

Members **noted** the report.

## **14. Financial Performance Report – Month 9 2023-2024**

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 9 2023-2024. The financial position was reported against the 2023-2024 baselines following approval of the 2023-2026 WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) by the Joint Committee in February 2023.

The year to date financial position reported at Month 9 for WHSSC (excluding EASC) was an underspend against the ICP financial plan of (£5.018m), the forecast year-end position is an underspend of (£10.416m).

Members **noted** the contents of the report including the year to date financial position and forecast year-end position.

## 15. South Wales Trauma Network Delivery Assurance Group

Members received a report providing a summary of the Quarter 2 2023/24 Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) report of the South Wales Major Trauma Network (SWTN).

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Received assurance** that the Major Trauma Network's delivery and outcomes are being scrutinised by the Delivery Assurance Group (DAG).

## 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:

- Audit and Risk Committee (ARC),
- Management Group (MG),
- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel; and
- Welsh Kidney Network (WKN).

## 18. Any Other Business

- **Farewell to CEO Hywel Dda UHB**– members noted that it would have been Steve Moore, CEO Hywel Dda UHB's last Joint Committee meeting following his appointment to a new role. Members thanked him for his contribution and commitment to developing specialised commissioning in Wales and wished him every success in future; and
- **Farewell to Assistant Director of Finance, WHSSC** – members noted that it was James Leaves, Assistant Director of Finance, WHSSC's last meeting and members thanked him for his hard work and commitment and wished him well in his new role with CVUHB.

