

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 21 November 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 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 19 September 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. Financial Savings Update

Members received a presentation on WHSSC's saving plan forecast.

Members **noted** the presentation.

4. Draft Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP)

Members received a report and a presentation offering assurance regarding the development of the 2024/2025 Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) and the approach to its development within the wider NHS Wales situational context.

Members **noted** the report and the presentation.

5. Chair's Report

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

- **Chairs Action** – the Chair's Action taken on 25 October 2023 to appoint Mrs Elizabeth Kathleen Abderrahim, as Chair to the WHSSC Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel from 1 November 2023 for a period of up to 3 years; and
- **Key Meetings attended.**

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Ratified** the Chair's action taken on 25 October 2023 to appoint Mrs Elizabeth Kathleen Abderrahim, as Chair to the WHSSC Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel.

6. Managing Director's Report

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

- **Cochlear Implant and Bone Conduction Hearing Implant – Update** - The Designated Provider process has been initiated to implement the model agreed by the Joint Committee. A letter inviting Expressions of Interest to become the specialist auditory implant device hub with an outreach service was sent to all the Health Boards (HBs) in the South East Wales, South West Wales and South Powys region in July 2023. WHSSC received two responses: CVUHB submitted an Expression of Interest in becoming the specialist auditory implant device hub with an outreach service; and SBUHB confirmed that they wished to work in partnership with CVUHB to develop the outreach support. The remaining elements of the Designated Provider process are in progress to ensure that the HB is able to meet the service criteria. The results of the full process will be received by the Management Group for scrutiny before a formal recommendation is made to the Joint Committee; and
- **Welsh Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) Innovation, Digital & Data Award** - Congratulations to James Leaves, Interim Director of Finance, WHSSC and Sandy Tallon, Head of Information, WHSSC on winning the 'Innovation, Data and Digital' HFMA Wales Branch award in October 2023. James, Sandy and their teams have been working on the financial costs and effects of the new Cystic Fibrosis drug called 'Kaftrio'. WHSSC were instrumental in arranging for the drug to be prescribed to Welsh patients from the autumn 2020. Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) data was used to analyse inpatient, outpatient and emergency attendances of the Kaftrio patient cohort, comparing information before and after their first prescription of the new drug.

Members **noted** the report.

7. Paediatric Surgery Update

Members received a report which considered the short term and longer term transformational changes for Paediatric Surgery and Paediatric Intensive Care in 2024/25 following a Joint Committee Workshop held on 17 November 2023. The neonatal service issues will be considered in more detail by the Joint Committee in January 2024. The report also made a recommendation to continue outsourcing paediatric surgery in 2023/24 (previously included in WHSSC's Financial Improvement Options).

Members (1) **Noted** the report and the steps taken to date, (2) **Approved** the continued outsourcing of paediatric surgery cases in 2023/24, (3) **Did not Support** the principle of outsourcing the backlog of patients in 2024/25 to support a waiting list position of 36 weeks, with

the detail to be considered in the agreement of the WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2024/25, but **did support** the ambition to do so; and (4) **Supported** the transformational programme of work for paediatric surgery and paediatric intensive care for inclusion in the WHSSC ICP 2024/25.

8. Individual Patient Funding Request Policy (IPFR) and WHSSC Terms of Reference (TOR)

Members received a report presenting the outcomes from the engagement process with key stakeholders to review the All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Policy and to seek support for the proposed changes to the policy prior to being shared with Health Boards for final approval. The updated WHSSC IPFR Terms of Reference (ToR) were also presented for approval.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the feedback from the WHSSC IPFR engagement process with key stakeholders, (3) **Supported** the proposed changes to the All Wales IPFR Policy prior to being submitted to each Health Board (HB) for final approval, (4) **Noted** that the proposed changes in the revised Policy have been developed jointly by the Policy Implementation Group and WHSSC, and have taken into consideration, where appropriate, the comments and suggestions received from the Kings Counsel (KC), (5) **Noted** that once the revised policy has been approved by the Health Boards (HBs) it will be shared with Welsh Government prior to adoption, (6) **Noted** that a Task & Finish Group have discussed and agreed some further updates to the WHSSC ToR; and (7) **Approved** the proposed changes to the WHSSC IPFR Panel ToR.

9. Delivery and Assurance Commissioning Arrangements for Operational Delivery Networks

Members received a report proposing revised arrangements for commissioning, performance management and delivery assurance for Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) commissioned by WHSSC and the respective services where they sit within WHSSC's remit.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the revised arrangements for commissioning, performance management and delivery assurance for Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) commissioned by WHSSC and the respective services where they sit within WHSSC's remit; and (3) **Approved** the new Terms of Reference (ToR) that have been prepared for the South Wales Trauma Network (SWTN) and the South Wales Spinal Network (SWSN) Delivery Assurance Groups (DAGs).

10. Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People Update

Members received a report providing an update on the progress of the NHS England (NHSE) Transformation programme for gender services for Children and Young People. The report aims to provide an update on the

development of regional services, options for Welsh patients and identify any potential financial risks.

Members (1) **Noted** the information presented in the report regarding the NHS England Transformation Programme for children and young people with gender incongruence, (2) **Noted** the mobilisation timescale and the risk of increased waiting times for children and young people as a result, (3) **Supported** WHSSC's commissioning position of continuing to work with NHS England to progress services in line with the recommendations of the Cass Review, (4) **Noted** the information in the report regarding the financial risks linked to the NHS England mobilisation costs and potential revised tariff that are likely to present an 'in year' risk to WHSSC in 2024-25, (5) **Supported** inclusion of the proposal for funding for the provision of waiting list support in the WHSSC triangulated risk assessment process which will inform the 2024/25 Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP).

11. 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 (4) **Approved** the updated audit tracker for submission to Audit Wales and to HB Audit Committees for assurance in early 2024.

12. WHSSC Integrated Performance Report – August 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.

13. Financial Performance Report – Month 6 2023-2024

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 6 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 6 for WHSSC was an

underspend against the ICP financial plan of (£5.171m), the forecast year-end position was an underspend of (£9.076m).

Members **noted** the contents of the report including the year to date 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 (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Approved** the WHSSC Annual Report 2022-2023.

15. 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).

