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Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 19 September 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/whscc/2023/2024-Joint-Committee-Welsh-Health-Specialised-Services-Committee)

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings held on the 18 July 2023 & 1 August 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. Genomics Update

Members received a presentation on how the All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS) is leading the way in many areas of genomics (Rare Disease, Cancer, Pharmacogenomics, and Mental Health) covering prevention, diagnosis and targeted treatments where was clinically needed and cost effective.

Members noted the Genomics Delivery Plan for Wales 2022-2025, how genomics was transforming cancer diagnostics and drug prescriptions; and how the AWMGS was delivering equitable genomic testing for improved outcomes in cancer and rare disease enabling precision medicine and reducing adverse drug reactions.

Members **noted** the presentation.

4. Chair's Report

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

- **Appointment of a Vice Chair** - To ensure effective business continuity for WHSSC and the Joint Committee it was proposed that Chantal Patel, Independent Member (IM), WHSSC is appointed to the unremunerated role of Vice Chair for the Joint Committee, in accordance with the WHSSC Standing Orders (SOs),
- **Establishment of WHSSC/EASC Vacancy Control Panel** – Following receipt of a letter to WHSSC on behalf of the CEOs,

WHSSC and EASC have established a joint Vacancy Control Panel, aligned with that of CTMUHB but responsive to the needs of both functions,

- **Chair of the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel**
Further to the Extraordinary Joint Committee meeting held on 1 August 2023, which supported the request to take forward the urgent recruitment of the WHSSC Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) panel Chair and approved the proposed remuneration package, the post has now been advertised following earlier delays. The aim is to appoint a substantive IPFR Chair by the end of October 2023. **Interim arrangements have been put in place to cover October;** and
- Key meetings attended.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** the update on the recruitment of the Chair of the Independent Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel; (3) **Noted** the establishment of the WHSSC/EASC Vacancy Control Panel and (4) **Approved** the appointment of Chantal Patel as Vice Chair of the WHSSC Joint Committee.

5. Managing Director's Report

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

- **Progress on South Wales Neonatal ODN** - Funding for the South Wales Neonatal Transport Operational Delivery Network (ODN) was agreed at the 14 March 2023 Joint Committee meeting and funding has been released. However, the recruitment process has not yet taken place and therefore in line with our approach for other, as yet uncommitted investments, we have suspended implementation for this financial year. We will review the need and/or different options for delivering the scheme in 2024-2025. This scheme will now be considered within our process for prioritisation of all uncommitted expenditure and we have requested further information from Swansea Bay UHB (SBUHB), the provider Health Board (HB) to inform this evaluation,
- **Fertility Update - WHSSC Policy development: - CP37 Pre-implantation Genetic Testing-Monogenic Disorders, Commissioning Policy - CP38, Specialist Fertility Services: Assisted Reproductive Medicine, Commissioning Policy** - The WHSSC team met with Llais on 31 August 2023 to discuss the next steps regarding the policy development. WHSSC informed Llais that because of the uncertainty surrounding the budget impact of any policy changes, the current financial challenges for the NHS in Wales meant that policy development has been halted. Colleagues in Llais understood the financial challenge and the difficult choices faced by WHSSC and HBs. A further update meeting is planned for late September 2023; and
- **South Wales Spinal Network (SWSN)** - Following discussion at the NHS Wales Health Collaborative Executive Group (CEG), the

Cardiff and Vale UHB (CVUHB) and SBUHB Regional and Specialised Services Provider Planning Partnership (RSSPPP) set up a project to develop a new service model, to clarify the regional model for South East and South West Wales respectively, as well as the supra-regional model for South Wales, West Wales and South Powys. The project was launched in October 2020, with the aim of developing recommendations for delivering a safe, effective and sustainable model for spinal surgery in South and West Wales.

The final report was presented to the NHS Wales Health CEG on the 6 April 2021. The recommendation was accepted by the CEG, and the responsibility for commissioning the ODN was delegated to the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC).

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Noted** that the South Wales Spinal Network (SWSN) will go live on 25 September 2023.

6. Development of the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2024/25

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

Members (1) **Noted** the report (2) Received assurance on the planning process to date which is in line with timeline received by the Joint Committee in May 2023; and (3) **Noted** the approach being taken to respond to the NHS Wales situational context, including an enhanced risk assessment.

7. South Wales Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) Regional Model Implementation Briefing Paper

Members received a report providing an update on the implementation of the South Wales Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) Regionalisation Programme following the Business Case approval in 2019, which proposed that the WHSSC Joint Committee fulfil the CEO reporting function at the request of the NHS Wales Chief Executives; and which requested that the Joint Committee give final approval for Phase 1 implementation of the Programme.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the updated South Wales Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) Regionalisation Programme model, prior to a report being issued to the seven HBs for final approval, (3) **Considered** and **approved** that the WHSSC Joint Committee will fulfil the CEO reporting function for the programme with immediate effect, prior to a report being issued to the seven HBs for final approval, (4) **Recommended to HBs for approval of** an in year funding uplift of £347k and a recurrent full year funding of up to £506k by 2025/26 for phase 1 of the implementation of the SARC Regionalisation Programme, prior to a report being issued to the seven HB's for final approval; and (5)

Recommended to HBs for approval of a continuation of funding for Phase 2 at the current level prior to a report being issued to the seven HBs for final approval.

A separate note will follow to HBs clarifying the financial arrangements for Phase 1.

8. Welsh Government National Commissioning Review Update

Members received a verbal update on progress with the Welsh Government national commissioning programme commissioned by the Minister for Health & Social Services.

Members noted that the National Commissioning Review Implementation Board meeting was taking place immediately after the WHSSC Joint Committee meeting.

Members **noted** the verbal update.

9. Single Commissioner for Secure Mental Health Service Project Initiation Document (PID)

Members received a report presenting the Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Single Commissioner Model for Secure Mental Health Services.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Supported** the recommendation to initiate the project to develop a Single Commissioner Model for Secure Mental Health Services.

10. Revision to Financial Delegated Limits

Members received a report requesting changes to the financial limits for Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) approvals.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, and (2) **Approved** the requested changes to the financial limits for Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) approvals.

11. WHSSC Model Standing Orders – Governance and Accountability Framework

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

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the proposed changes to the WHSSC Standing Orders (SOs), prior to being issued to the seven HB's for approval and inclusion as schedule 4.1 within their respective HB SOs, (3) **Approved** the proposed changes to the WHSSC Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) prior to being issued to the seven HBs for approval and inclusion as schedule 4.1 Annex 2.1 within their respective HB SOs; and (4) **Noted** that there are no changes to the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

12. WHSSC Performance Report Month

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 4 2023-2024

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 4 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 4 for WHSSC was a forecast overspend of £2.164m against the ICP financial plan and a forecast year-end underspend of £4.202m.

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

14. South Wales Neonatal Transport Delivery Assurance Group Report (April 2023 - June 2023)

Members received a report providing a summary of the South Wales Neonatal Transport Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) quarterly report for 1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023.

Members (1) **Noted** the highlights of the Q1 Neonatal Transport DAG report, (2) **Noted** that the full report was being shared In-Committee due to potential patient identifiable data; and (3) **Received** assurance that the Neonatal Transport service delivery and outcomes were being scrutinised by the Delivery Assurance Group (DAG).

15. South Wales Trauma Network Delivery Assurance Group Report (Q1)

Members received a report providing a summary of the Quarter 1 2023/24 Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) report of the South Wales Major Trauma Network (SWTN).

Members **noted** the full South Wales Major Trauma Network (SWTN) DAG Report and highlights contained in the cover report.

16. Specialised Paediatric Services Strategy – Implementation Board Highlight Report

Members received a report providing a progress update on the implementation of the Specialised Paediatric Services Strategy.

Members **noted** the report and the progress made.

17. All Wales PET Programme Progress Report

Members received a report providing an update on the progress made by the All Wales Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Programme.

Members **noted** the progress made by the All Wales Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Programme and its associate projects and workstreams.

18. 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.

19. 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); and
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC);

20. Any Other Business

- **Cheshire & Wirral Mother and Baby Unit (MBU)** – Members noted that a contractor had been identified and a start on site was expected before Christmas. Recruitment to the posts was expected to start in April 2024 with view to new unit being operational by 1 October 2024; and
- **WHSSC Annual Report** – members noted that the WHSSC Annual Report would be circulated via email for approval and brought back to the November meeting for ratification.

