



CORE BRIEF TO MANAGEMENT GROUP MEMBERS

MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

This briefing sets out the key areas of discussion and decision. It aims to ensure the Management Group members have a common core brief to disseminate within their organisation.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting noting that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was being held via MS Teams with a consent agenda. It was noted that a quorum had been achieved.

Written questions from members and answers had been published in advance of the meeting and had been embedded within the meeting papers.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Action Log

The Minutes from the meetings held on 20 August 2020 were noted and approved.

Members noted there were no open actions on the Action Log for September 2020.

3. Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director's report, including updates on TAVI Management of Severe Aortic Stenosis during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Neonatal Transport was taken as read. Members were advised that a response was awaited from WAST on its capacity to deliver an interim 24/7 transport service.

4. Prioritisation and CIAG Processes

Members were advised that the Prioritisation process had been run using the usual methodology in a virtual setting; four schemes had been selected for prioritisation and a formal report would follow.

Members noted the challenges to organising the CIAG process in the COVID-19 environment with recent changes to guidance and the number of local lockdowns in place making it inappropriate to hold physical meeting.

5. Welsh Gender Service Presentation

Members received a presentation providing an update on the progress made by the Welsh Gender Service during its first operational year.

6. Referral Management Project Manager Evaluation

Members received a paper which informed them of the benefits of the Referral Management Project Management post and the options for continuing this work in the context of COVID-19.

Members (1) noted the information presented within the report; (2) noted that the work of the referral manager will be continued by the Commissioning Teams; and (3) supported the opportunity to revisit the funding of the Referral Management Project Manager in the next financial year.

7. Implementation of 2020/21 ICP Scheme Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) Service – Phase 2 South Wales

Members received a paper which requested approval for the release of funding to enable the implementation of the 2020/21 ICP scheme Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) Service – Phase 2 South Wales.

Members (1) approved the release of funding to enable the implementation of the 2020/21 ICP scheme Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) Service – Phase 2 South Wales for approval by the Management Group; (2) noted that the requested funding is within the provision which has been made for the funding requirement in the 2020/23 ICP; and (3) noted that the implementation of this ICP scheme will support the response to COVID-19 harm as outlined in the paper.

8. Reducing harm due to Covid-19: Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) and Brachytherapy

Members received a paper the purpose of which was to request approval for in-year funding to expand the commissioned indications for SABR and Brachytherapy in order to provide additional, evidence based, treatment options to support the reduction of harm related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members (1) noted that clinical evidence supports the routine commissioning of SABR to treat patients with Oligometastatic Cancer and Hepatocellular Carcinoma; (2) noted treating patients with SABR helps to reduce Covid related harm since the relative benefits of SABR compared with alternative treatment modalities (surgery or systemic therapy) increase when there is risk of infection with Covid-19; (3) noted clinical evidence supports the routine commissioning of Brachytherapy to treat patients with intermediate and high risk localised prostate cancer; (4) noted by substituting for a proportion of external beam radiotherapy, the provision of brachytherapy for intermediate and high risk prostate cancer patients will allow increased radiotherapy throughput, reducing COVID-19 related harm by increasing the ability to treat backlog and manage any future surge of previously suppressed demand; (5) supported a recommendation to Joint Committee to commission SABR for patients

with Oligometastatic Cancer and Hepatocellular Carcinoma in line with WHSSC's draft commissioning policies as in-year service development on an interim basis for 6 months; (6) supported a recommendation to Joint Committee to commission brachytherapy in line with WHSSC's draft commissioning policy as an in-year service development on an interim basis for 6 months; and (7) noted recurrent funding for SABR for Oligometastatic Cancer and HCC, and brachytherapy for intermediate and high risk prostate cancer, will be considered through the WHSSC IPC process for 2021-24.

9. Thrombectomy Services – Long Term solution for Image Transfer

Members received a paper which provided an overview on the current provision of image transfer, the associated risks and the impact with delivering Thrombectomy services in Wales and set out a proposal to deliver a long term solution to improve patient outcomes.

Members (1) noted the associated risks with the current delivery model for Thrombectomy image transfers across the north and south Wales region; (2) noted what actions need to be taken to strengthen and improve image transfer in a time critical manner; and (3) supported the proposal for the purchase of the cloud PACS IT platforms for the north and south Wales regions and agree a preferred option for the appropriate funding route.

10. Obesity Surgery in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Members received a paper which provided an update on the current position in regards to the delivery of the WHSSC commissioned tier 4 obesity surgery service and highlight the additional risks to obese patients in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Members noted the information presented in the paper.

11. All Wales Traumatic Stress Quality Improvement Initiative Funding Release

Members received a paper which confirmed the funding for the All Wales Traumatic Stress Quality Improvement Initiative from Welsh Government and Joint Committee approval for WHSSC to commission the service.

Members noted the information presented in the paper.

12. Impacts of COVID-19 on Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR)

Members received a paper which informed them of the impacts of COVID-19 on the nature and number of IPFRs received by WHSSC and provided assurance that there is compliance with the All Wales IPFR policy and procedure related to consideration of both Prior Approvals and IPFRs.

Members (1) noted the information presented within the paper; and (2) received assurance that there are robust processes in place to ensure that prompt individual patient funding decisions are made and recorded.

13. Options Appraisal for a Permanent Perinatal Mental Health In Patient Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) in Wales

Members received a paper which informed them of the options appraisal exercise and scoring of the short listed options for a permanent Perinatal Mental Health In Patient MBU in Wales.

Members noted the paper had previously been submitted to the Joint Committee meeting on 8 September 2020 and that Neath Port Talbot was the preferred site for the permanent MBU.

Members noted the information presented in the paper.

14. 2020-21 Month 5 Finance Report

Members received a paper which was to set out the financial position for WHSSC for month 5 of 2020-21.

Members were informed that a NHS England and NHS Wales cross-border meeting would be taking place on 25 September 2020 at which the M7-M12 financial basis would be discussed.

Members noted the information presented in the paper.

15. iBabs and Admincontrol

Members were reminded that the iBabs license would expire at the end of September and the Admincontrol app would be used exclusively for the distribution of meeting papers. Members who had not yet registered for Admincontrol were asked to do so.

16. Development Session

Members were reminded that a Management Group development session would take place after the formal business of the October meeting.

17. Format of Management Group Meetings

Some members requested consideration be given to moving away from a 'consent agenda' style, to re-introduce more scope for debate.

