

Kate Eden
Chair
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee
Via Email: kate.eden2@wales.nhs.uk

29 June 2021

Dear Kate

I am writing in my capacity as the chair of the NHS Wales Health Collaborative Executive Group (CEG), to formally request that WHSSC take on the commissioning of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgery in South Wales.

As you will be aware, the commissioning arrangements for these services in South Wales are split between Health Boards and WHSSC, whereas, in NHS England, these services are all commissioned directly as specialised services.

At present, WHSSC commission the hepatobiliary surgery service at Cardiff to provide liver resection surgery for patients with suspected malignant disease of the liver and biliary tree. All other services, including other hepatobiliary surgery or staging procedures, and pancreatic surgery, are funded by the Health Boards. Furthermore, these services are currently split and located on separate sites:

- Hepatobiliary surgery at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff
- Pancreatic surgery at Morriston Hospital, Swansea

Over the last year, the CEG commissioned the Wales Cancer Network to develop a model service specification to inform the future commissioning of these services. This was partly in response to a letter from the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, in which he sought advice on the potential to bring the pancreatic and liver surgical teams together into one service, on one site. The model service specification was approved in principle at the May meeting of the CEG.

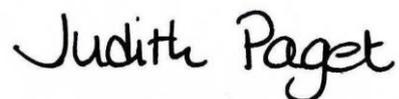
The model service specification is clear that there needs to be much closer integration between the two services, and in response I will be writing to the Chief Executives of Cardiff and Vale UHB and Swansea Bay UHB, to request that they establish a inter organisation multidisciplinary task and finish group to make recommendations on an appropriate service model which complies with the model service specification.

However, it is also clear that HPB surgery is a specialised service, and as such it would be more appropriate for it to be commissioned through WHSSC. Following discussion at CEG, it was agreed that the responsibility for commissioning the services in Cardiff and Swansea, should be delegated to WHSSC. The work undertaken on the specification also highlighted the fragility of the Hepato Cellular Carcinoma (HCC) MDT at Cardiff and Vale, and it was agreed that as there is an established interdependency with HPB surgery, this would also benefit from being commissioned through WHSSC.

In order to progress this in a timely and structured manner, I would be grateful if the WHSSC team could prepare a detailed proposal, with timeline, for taking on the delegated responsibility for commissioning HPB surgery and the HCC MDT, for consideration at the next available Joint Committee meeting.

Please let me know if you have any queries, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Paget". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith Paget
Chair - NHS Wales Health Collaborative

Copy to: Sian Lewis, Managing Director, WHSSC