

## **WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 15 MARCH 2022**

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on the 15 March 2022. 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 at:

<https://whssc.nhs.wales/joint-committee/committee-meetings-and-papers/2021-2022-meeting-papers/>

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

The minutes of the meetings held on the 11 January 2022, 18 January 2022 and 8 February 2022 were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

### **2. Action log & matters arising**

Members **noted** the progress on the actions outlined on the action log.

### **3. Neonatal Transport Update**

Members received an update report on progress to establish an Operational Delivery Network (ODN) for the neonatal transport service.

Members noted that the Joint Committee (JC) had supported that Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) host the ODN and the intention was that the ODN would be in place by January 2022. However, due to operational pressures and the ongoing pandemic progress had been delayed and the intended “go live” date for the ODN had moved to June 2022.

Members **noted** the report.

### **4. Chair’s Report**

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

- No chairs actions had been undertaken since the last meeting,
- An update on the substantive appointment of a Chair for the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN),
- An update on WHSSC Independent Member (IM) Remuneration,
- Attendance at the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC) 28 February 2022; and
- 1 to 1 Meetings with Health Board (HB) CEOs.

Members **noted** the report.

## **5. Managing Director's Report**

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

- The SBUHB Welsh Centre for Burns; and
- The De-escalation of Cardiac Surgery at SBUHB from Level 4 to Level 3.

Members **noted** the report.

## **6. Implementing a 12 Week Clinical Pathway for the Management and Treatment of Aortic Stenosis**

Members received a report seeking support for the implementation of a 12 week clinical pathway for the management and treatment of aortic stenosis.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Supported** in principle the implementation of a 12 week clinical pathway for the management and treatment of aortic stenosis.

## **7. WHSSC Process for Responding to the Ministerial Measures**

Members received a report providing an overview of the recently received Ministerial measures and which proposed a process through which WHSSC could respond.

Members **noted** the new Ministerial priority measures and the process through which WHSSC will respond to them.

## **8. Major Trauma Update**

Members received a report providing an update on the performance and key issues in the Major Trauma Network covering south, mid and west Wales.

Members **noted** the report.

## **9. Disestablishment of the NHS Wales Mental Health and Learning Disability Collaborative Commissioning Group**

Members **noted** that this agenda item had been deferred until the next meeting.

## **10. All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel Update**

Members received a report providing an update regarding proposals to change the terms of reference (ToR) of the All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel. The report also proposed that an engagement process is undertaken related to future changes to the ToR as well as arrangements for a strengthened governance structure for the Joint Committee's sub-committee.

Members discussed the ongoing risks to WHSSC and it was agreed that Dr Sian Lewis (SL), Managing Director, WHSSC would meet with Nick Wood, Deputy Chief Executive NHS Wales, Welsh Government (WG) to discuss how to progress the IPFR Governance issue as a matter of urgency within WG; and that the WHSS Team would write to Andrew Evans, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, WG expressing the Joint Committee's concerns and to provide him with a copy of the meeting report.

Members (1) **Noted** the progress made and the proposed changes to the All-Wales IPFR WHSSC Panel Terms of Reference (ToR), which are being discussed with Welsh Government, (2) **Noted** the progress made following discussions with Welsh Government regarding urgent changes to the existing NHS Wales Policy "Making Decisions on Individual Funding Requests (IPFRs)", (3) **Supported** that the WHSS Team undertake an engagement process around proposals to change the All-Wales IPFR WHSSC Panel ToR; and (4) **Approved** an uplift to the Direct Running Costs (DRC) budget by £57K per annum to fund the additional governance resource within WHSSC.

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

Members received the updated Corporate Risk Assurance Framework (CRAF) which outlined the risks scoring 15 or above on the commissioning teams and directorate risk registers.

Members (1) **Approved** the updated Corporate Risk Assurance Framework (CRAF); and (2) **Noted** that a follow up risk management workshop will be held in summer 2022 to review how the Risk management process is working, and to consider risk appetite and tolerance levels across the organisation.

### **12. WHSSC Joint Committee Annual Plan of Committee Business 2022-2023**

Members received the Joint Committee's Annual Plan of Committee Business for 2022-2023 that outlined the annual business cycle for the work of the Committee.

Members **approved** the Joint Committee's Annual Plan of Committee Business for 2022-2023.

### **13. COVID-19 Period Activity Report for Month 9 2021-2022 COVID-19 Period**

Members received a report that highlighted the scale of the decrease in activity levels during the peak COVID-19 period and whether there were any signs of recovery in specialised services activity.

Members **noted** the report.

## 14. Financial Performance Report – Months 10 and 11 2021-2022

Members received the financial performance reports setting out the financial position for WHSSC for months 10 and 11 of 2021-2022. The financial position was reported against the 2021-2022 baselines following approval of the 2021-2022 WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) by the Joint Committee in January 2021.

The financial position reported at Month 11 for WHSSC was a year-end outturn forecast under spend of £14,058k.

Members **noted** the report.

## 15. 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.

## 16. Other reports

Members also **noted** update reports from the following joint Sub-committees and Advisory Groups:

- Audit & Risk Committee (ARC),
- Management Group (MG),
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC),
- Integrated Governance Committee (IGC),
- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel; and
- Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN).

## 17. Any Other Business (AOB)

Members received verbal updates on:

- The Annual Committee Effectiveness Exercise for 2021-2022 which will be circulated at the end of March 2022 and all members were encouraged to complete the online survey; and
- Recognition that Ian Phillips, Independent Member (IM) WHSSC, would be resigning from his position, as he had been appointed as the substantive Chair of Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN).



GIG  
CYMRU  
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WALES  
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