

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – NOVEMBER 2020

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 10 November 2020. This briefing sets out the key areas of consideration and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening in Welsh Health Specialised Services.

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

The papers for the meeting are available at:

<https://whssc.nhs.wales/joint-committee/committee-meetings-and-papers/2020-2021-meeting-papers/>

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings of 8 September and 13 October 2020 were taken as read and approved.

Action log & matters arising

Members noted there were no outstanding actions or matters arising.

Those health boards represented at the meeting confirmed that their Boards were aware of the heightened level of risk to patient harm brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic hindering patient access to specialised services.

Chair's Report

The Chair's Report referred members to a Chair's Action taken on 11 September 2020 to approve the commissioning of the All Wales Traumatic Stress Quality Improvement Initiative by WHSSC, which was ratified.

Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director's report, including updates on Independent Hospitals Commissioning through to 31 December 2020 and work commissioned by Welsh Government whereby the WHSS Team will prepare a paper on all of the work streams currently under way to develop and enhance the Welsh Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), was taken as read.

Neonatal Transport Update

Members received a paper that updated them on the progress made in establishing a 24/7 neonatal transport service for south and west Wales in accordance with the agreement made by Joint Committee at its meeting in March 2020, and sought agreement on next steps.

Members were advised that a proposal had been received from the three provider health boards for an interim 24/7 model and that a formal response was awaited from WAST in support of this model. It was anticipated that the interim model would commence from January 2021 and run for six months. Progress had been more challenging on the permanent solution.

Members (1) noted the information presented within the report and progress to establish a 24/7 neonatal transport service in both the interim and as a permanent solution; (2) reaffirmed their support that the service should be delivered through a lead provider model; and (3) approved the next steps, that is for WHSST to write to the clinical leads of the current providers confirming the Joint Committee's continued support for a lead provider model and its desire for them to work collaboratively to resolve the clinical risks and concerns concurrent with utilisation of the interim model.

Integrated Commissioning Plan 2021-22 and Beyond – Principles and Priorities

Members received a presentation that explored the principles and priorities to be applied to development of the ICP 2021-22 and beyond. It was noted that the ICP was scheduled to be developed in collaboration with Management Group and brought to Joint Committee in January 2021 for approval.

Members confirmed their support for the principles and priorities described in the presentation.

Future of the All Wales Gender Identity Partnership Group

Members received a paper that gave a brief overview of the work undertaken by the All Wales Gender Identity Partnership Group (AWGIPG) to date and proposals for the next phase of service development.

Members (1) noted the information presented within the report; (2) supported the proposal to disband the AWGIPG; and (3) supported the recommendation to consider the development of a Managed Clinical Network hosted outside of WHSSC.

Way Forward – All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request Panel Report

Members received a paper that sought approval of revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the All Wales (WHSSC) IPFR Panel, a sub-committee of the Joint Committee. It was noted that consultation on the changes had been through the IPFR Policy Implementation Group and that the WHSS Team had only recently received feedback on the consultation.

Members (1) received assurance that there are robust processes in place to ensure that prompt individual patient funding decisions are made in line with the All Wales IPFR policy; and (2) requested sight of the responses to the consultation exercise conducted through the IPFR Policy Implementation Group and the WHSS Team comments on those responses, prior to assenting to the revised ToR being approved by Chair's Action.

Quality & Patient Safety Committee - Revised Terms of Reference

Members received a paper that presented them with a revised version of the Terms of Reference for the Quality & Patient Safety Committee for approval.

Members approved the revised WHSSC Quality & Patient Safety Committee Terms of Reference.

NCCU - Continuation of Framework for Care Homes

Members received a paper that set out the case for continuation of the NCCU National Framework Agreement for Care Homes after expiry of the current 'Invest to Save' scheme on 31 March 2021. This matter had been brought to WHSSC as a facilitator for recharging the cost of maintaining the scheme from 1 April 2021 through the WHSSC risk share mechanism and to seek approval of an annual budget of £480k for NCCU maintaining the Framework. The health board repayment schedule of the 'Invest to Pay' funds of £1.6m over three years from 1 April 2021 was also noted.

Members approved (1) the £480k annual budget for NCCU maintaining the Framework; and (2) utilisation of the WHSSC risk share mechanism to re-charge the funding to health boards.

Financial Performance Report – Month 6 2020-21

A paper that set out the financial position for WHSSC for month 6 of 2020-21, including a forecast under spend around £10m at year end, was taken as read.

The Director of Finance reported that, while the full month 7 report was not yet available, the position had continued to improve with a forecast under spend at year end of around £13.7m. A financial recovery was also likely in relation to underperformance between M7-12 on certain English contracts. It was agreed that consideration should be given to whether

some of the forecast under spend should be deployed to support critical performance and sustainability issues in 2020-21.

Other reports

Members also took as read the update reports from the following joint Sub-committees and Advisory Groups:

- Management Group;
- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request Panel; and
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee.

Standards of Behaviour Policy

Members were advised that work was under way to adapt the all Wales model template developed by the Deputy Board Secretaries Group to suit the needs of WHSSC and that this would be taken forward by Chair's Action ahead of the next scheduled meeting.

