

## **WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 16 MAY 2023**

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on 16 May 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/2023/2024-Joint-Committee-Welsh-Health-Specialised-Services-Committee/)

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

The minutes of the meetings held on the 14 March 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. WHSSC Specialised Services Strategy**

Members received a report and presentation presenting the final draft of the Specialised Services Commissioning Strategy for approval.

Members **noted** that following the Joint Committee workshop to discuss the strategy on 17 April the document had been updated to reflect the feedback received from the Joint Committee and Welsh Government.

Members (1) **Approved** the final draft of the Specialised Services Commissioning Strategy; and (2) **Supported** the decision to undertake further detailed work on the development of a set of meaningful success measures for the strategic objectives, with a timescale of September 2023 for completion.

### **4. WHSSC & HB Shared Pathway Saving Target – Milestones on Governance System & Process**

Members **received** a presentation on the outline governance system and process for the Joint Committee to monitor achievement of the 1% WHSSC and HB shared pathway savings target, which had been requested by the Committee following approval of the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2023-2024 on 13 February 2023.

Members **noted** that WHSSC had applied a programme management approach to establishing a mechanism to monitor savings and efficiencies and had developed Project Initiation Document (PID) outlining that a Programme Board be established comprising of representatives from each Health Board (HB). The PID had been shared with the Management Group in readiness for detailed discussion on 23 March 2023.

Members **noted** that an update on progress would be provided as a standing item on the agenda of future Joint Committee meetings.

Members **noted** the presentation.

## 5. Chair's Report

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

- **Chair's Action** - The Chair's Action taken on 9 May 2023 to extend the tenure of Professor Ceri Phillips, Independent Member (IM), WHSSC from 31 May 2023 until 30 June 2023,
- **WHSSC Independent Member (IM) Recruitment** - that a recruitment process for the third WHSSC IM position will open in May 2023,
- **Welsh Government (WG) Review of National Commissioning Functions** - further to the Minister for Health & Social Services's announcement concerning a review of national commissioning functions a facilitated discussion with Joint Committee members took place on 14 March 2023 to coincide with the EASC and WHSSC meetings scheduled for that day; and
- Key meetings attended.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Ratified** the Chair's action taken on 9 May 2023 to extend the tenure of Professor Ceri Phillips, Independent Member (IM), WHSSC from 31 May 2023 until 30 June 2023.

## 6. Managing Director's Report

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

- **Single Commissioner for Mental Health** - Further to the Joint Committee meeting on 10 January 2023, when six of the seven HBs on the Joint Committee supported a recommendation to WG that WHSSC should be the single commissioner for secure Mental Health service in Wales, on 20 March 2023 WHSSC received confirmation from WG that they accepted the recommendation. A letter has been issued to Welsh Government requesting funding for project management support for the associated programme of work,
- **Sacral Nerve Stimulation (SNS) for faecal incontinence in South Wales** - WHSSC has received a request from the Chair of the NHS Wales Health Collaborative Executive Group (CEG) formally requesting that WHSSC take on the commissioning of Sacral Nerve Stimulation (SNS) for faecal incontinence in South Wales. The

WHSSC Team will undertake an evidence review of the procedure and an estimation of demand and budget impact to feed into the WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan. A report outlining the process and timeline, will be brought to the July Joint Committee,

- **Spinal Operational Delivery Network (ODN)** - Following highlighting the delay reported in the March 2023 meeting the Implementation Board have confirmed that the plan is for the ODN to go live in September 2023,
- **Thoracic Surgical Centre Update** - Following further detailed capital planning work undertaken by SBUHB as the host provider of the future single Thoracic Surgical Centre a briefing has been received with a more detailed timeline for the delivery of the scheme. At the Project Board meeting in November 2022 an initial indicative timeline was reported that the Centre will be operational during 2026; and
- **All Wales IPFR Policy Review**  
The final draft of the All Wales Individual Patient Funding Panel (IPFR) Policy will be presented to the Joint Committee in July 2023. It has not been possible to complete the work in time for the May committee meeting due to the availability of the KC to consider the draft which has now been agreed by WHSSC and stakeholders.

Members **noted** the report.

## **7. Review of Specialised Commissioning in Haematology: Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) and High Risk Myelodysplasia**

Members received a report outlining the main findings and proposals of the report on Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) and High Risk Myelodysplasia (HRM) from the review of specialised commissioning in haematology.

Members (1) **Noted** the findings of the specialised haematology review in relation to the opportunities, risks and challenges for the Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) and High Risk Myelodysplasia (HRM) service in Wales, (2) **Considered** the options proposed for how specialised commissioning under WHSSC could address the opportunities, risks and challenges in the AML, ALL and HRM service to provide an equitable, high quality and sustainable service for patients in Wales; and (3) **Approved** option 4, the phased implementation of option 1 (all Wales MDT) and option 3 (network service model for Wales), as the preferred option.

## **8. Review of Specialised Commissioning in Haematology: Allogeneic Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, Salvage Therapy in Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Secondary Immunodeficiency**

Members received a report outlining the main findings and proposals of the review of specialised commissioning in haematology for Allogeneic Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (AHSCT), salvage therapy for high grade Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (HG NHL) and Secondary Immunodeficiency in haematology patients.

Members (1) **Noted** the findings of the specialised haematology review in relation to the management of AHSCT, salvage therapy for HG NHL and treatment for secondary immunodeficiency in haematology patients, (2) **Noted** the options proposed for how specialised commissioning under WHSSC may address the opportunities, risks and challenges in these service; and (3) **Approved** the following specific recommendations:

- Management of AHSCT:
  - Commissioning responsibility for long term follow up (post 100 days) by the specialist AHSCT team is transferred from HBs to WHSSC,
- Salvage therapy for HG NHL:
  - Current commissioning arrangements are retained,
  - The role of central commissioning is re-evaluated once an agreed national pathway for HG NHL is in place,
- Secondary immunodeficiency:
  - Current commissioning arrangements are retained; and
  - Consideration is given to undertaking work at an all Wales level to evaluate the feasibility of a national sub-cutaneous immunoglobulin therapy service for patients with secondary immunodeficiency.

## **9. Review of Specialised Commissioning in Haematology: Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura**

Members received a report outlining the main findings and proposals of the review of specialised commissioning in haematology for Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP).

Members (1) **Noted** the current model of service delivery for TTP across Wales and the risks to equitable access to best treatment, (2) **Approved** the transfer of commissioning responsibility for TTP from Health Boards to WHSSC; and (3) **Approved** the proposed preferred option to commission TTP for the population of south Wales from a designated comprehensive TTP centre in NHS England.

## **10. Cochlear and Bone Conduction Hearing Implant (BCHI) Engagement & Next Steps**

Members received a report outlining the targeted engagement process undertaken regarding Cochlear and BCHI services for people in South East

Wales, South West Wales and South Powys, the findings from that process and the proposed next steps.

Members (1) **Noted** the process that has been followed both in respect of a) the temporary urgent service change for Cochlear services and b) the requirements against the guidance for changes to NHS services in Wales, (2) **Noted** and **Considered** the feedback received from patients, staff and stakeholders with respect commissioning intent, (3) **Approved** the preferred commissioning model of a single implantable device hub for both children and adults with an outreach support model, (4) **Supported** the next steps specifically the undertaking of a designated provider process; followed by a period of formal consultation, (5) **Noted** the process that has been enabled to seek patient and stakeholder views in line with the requirements against the guidance for changes to NHS services in Wales; and (6) **Agreed** to take the outcome and proposed next steps through Health Boards for consideration.

### **11. Performance Management Framework**

Members received a report presenting the draft WHSSC Performance Management Framework approach which subject to approval will be embedded into WHSSC's business as usual processes, and shared with provider organisations, for transparency and awareness.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the proposed approach for an updated WHSSC Performance Management Framework; and (3) **supported** the proposed implementation arrangements.

### **12. Development of the Integrated Commissioning Plan 2024-2027**

Members received a report outlining the high level process for the development of the WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) for 2024-2027.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Considered** and **Approved** the timeline; and (3) **Received assurance** on the process.

### **13. Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023**

Members received a report presenting the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2022-23 for approval.

Members (1) **Noted** the final report, (2) **Noted** that the draft Annual governance Statement was presented to the Integrated Governance Committee on the 18 May 2023 for assurance, (3) **Noted** that the WHSSC Annual governance Statement 2022-2023 will be presented at the CTMUHB Audit & Risk Committee Meeting on 21 June 2023, (4) **Noted** that the WHSSC Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023 will be included in the CTMUHB Annual report submission to Welsh Government and Audit Wales in June 2023, recognising that it has been reviewed and

agreed by the relevant sub committees of the Joint Committee; (5) **Noted** that the final documents will be submitted to the CTMUHB Audit & Risk Committee in July 2023 for recommendation for CTMUHB Board Approval on 27 July 2023; and (6) **Noted** that the final Annual Governance Statement will be included in the Annual Report presented at the CTMUHB Annual General Meeting in September 2023.

#### **14. Sub Committee Annual Reports**

Members received a report presenting the Sub-Committee Annual Reports for 2022-2023.

Members **noted** the Sub-Committee Annual Reports for 2022-23.

#### **15. Sub Committee Terms of Reference**

Members received a report presenting the updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC), the Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC), and the Welsh Kidney Network (WKN) for approval.

Members (1) **Noted** that the Welsh Kidney Network (WKN) Terms of Reference were discussed and approved at the WKN Board Meeting on 4 April 2023, (2) **Noted** that the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC), the Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC) Terms of Reference were discussed and approved at sub-committee meetings on 18 April 2023, (3) **Noted** that the MG ToR were discussed at the MG meeting on 27 April 2023 and no changes were proposed; and (4) **Approved** the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the IGC, the QPSC and the WKN.

#### **16. Performance & Activity Report Month 11 2022-2023**

Members received a report highlighting the scale of the decrease in activity levels during the peak COVID-19 period, and outlining signs of recovery in specialised services activity. The activity decreases were shown in the context of the potential risk regarding patient harms and of the loss of value from nationally agreed financial block contract arrangements.

Members **noted** the report.

#### **17. Financial Performance Report – Month 12 2022-2023**

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 12 2022-2023. The financial position was reported against the 2022-2023 baselines following approval of the 2022-2023 WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) by the Joint Committee in February 2022.

The year-end financial position reported at Month 12 for WHSSC was an underspend of (£10.939m). The under spend predominantly relates to releasable reserves of (£18m) arising from 2021/22 as a result of WHSSC

assisting Health Boards to manage resources over financial years on a planned basis, as HBs could not absorb underspends above their own forecasts, and to ensure the most effective use of system resources.

Members **noted** the current financial position and forecast year-end position.

### **18. South Wales Trauma Network Delivery Assurance Group (Quarter 3 Report)**

Members received a report providing a summary of the Quarter 3 2022/23 Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) report of the South Wales Major Trauma Network (SWTN).

Members **noted** the full South Wales Major Trauma Network (SWTN) Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) report.

### **19. 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.

### **20. 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),
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC); and
- Welsh Kidney Network (WKN).

### **21. Any Other Business**

- Members noted a Joint Committee development session will be held on 11 September 2023.

