Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Grŵp Iechyd, Gofal ac Atal / Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru

Director General Health, Health, Care and Prevention Group / NHS Wales Chief Executive

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Juliet Brown
Chief Commissioner,
NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

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Our Ref: JT/BS/SB

22 October 2026

Dear Juliet

Annual Plan 2026-27

I am pleased to note NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee's (NWJCC) submission of a balanced Annual Plan for 2026–29, in alignment with the NHS Wales Planning Framework and in the spirit of section 175(2A) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (as amended by the NHS Finance (Wales) Act 2014). While the submission of a strategic plan is not a statutory duty for your organisation, I am pleased to see your continued commitment to strategic planning and financial sustainability.

I am pleased to confirm your organisation's Annual Plan for 2026-27 has been assessed as satisfactory, given the circumstances this year, and I can confirm the Cabinet Minister for Health and Care has noted the position. I would like to recognise this as a significant achievement, especially in the complex and challenging planning environment, and I would also like to thank those involved in the development of the plan for their hard work. I am of course keen for your organisation to continue to mature its integrated planning since the Committee was established, with the aim of developing a full three-year Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) going forward.

Whilst your plan has been assessed as satisfactory, which reflects the level of confidence in your organisation's response to the NHS Wales Planning Framework at this point in time, the plan does carry a number of risks which will need to be actively managed and mitigated. I have therefore set out a range of accountability

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conditions, which must be tracked and reported on throughout the year. The accountability conditions for the health board are set out in Annex 1.

These conditions should be viewed alongside your plan and existing statutory responsibilities. They represent the areas where national oversight, assurance and demonstrable progress will be particularly important during the coming year.

Meeting these conditions will require continued partnership working across NHS Wales, Welsh Government, local government and other key stakeholders.

The Cabinet Minister and I expect you and the Committee to effectively scrutinise and monitor progress against your plan, to have accepted any risks within it, and have mechanisms to ensure delivery. The organisation should continue to submit quarterly updates on the implementation of your plan and progress against the accountability conditions to HCP.PlanningTeam@gov.wales and must be accompanied by a refreshed Minimum Data Set (MDS), clearly outlining any changes to trajectories and goals.

Progress against these conditions will form part of our routine performance and accountability arrangements throughout the year. We will work constructively with your team to monitor delivery, address emerging risks and support achievement of the agreed outcomes.

If any material changes to the plan are required during the year, these must be communicated to me in an 'Accountable Officer' letter.

As Chief Commissioner, I expect you to lead by example and with compassion, drawing on the full capability of your senior team to meet the accountability conditions, engage constructively with the Welsh Government, and deliver measurable improvements.

I trust this letter provides clarity on our expectations. However, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your continued commitment and leadership. I look forward to working with you to deliver these priorities and improve outcomes for the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Totterdell

cc: Ian Green, Chair, NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

Annex 1: NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee - Accountability Conditions 2026-27

Your organisation's accountability conditions include:

Condition Ref:	Accountability Condition:
NWJCC#AC1	As a minimum, deliver the financially balanced plan in full and progress ongoing development and realisation of opportunities, in line with the Ministerial Priorities, ensuring any adverse variance to trajectories/delivery is specifically highlighted within the regular monitoring arrangements.
NWJCC#AC2	Develop a long-term Commissioning Strategy, aligned to the emerging National Clinical Plan, which establishes clear priorities for investment, disinvestment, service sustainability and future commissioning decisions.
NWJCC#AC3	Strengthen commissioning oversight and develop sustainable commissioning solutions for priority national services, where significant service risks, access issues or commissioning gaps have been identified. Actions include: **Women's Health** Submit a demand and capacity review for the following services by 31 March 2027: to inform an assessment of service gaps and commissioning models for 2027/28 o pelvic mesh; o endometriosis; o complex abortion services. **Neonatal Services** • Provide an update, demonstrating alignment between strategic reviews and: o Pathway to Safer Beginnings (including legacy MatNeo SSP requirements); o neonatal transport arrangements.

Reporting arrangements

- The Annual Plan and summary explainer video must be published on your organisation's public facing website.
- Reporting must be submitted quarterly to provide a delivery update against the Annual Plan, as well as the conditions outlined above. There should be reporting against the key milestones associated with that quarter, an explanation of any delays/amendments to milestones, identification of next steps and the mitigation of any new/emerging risks.
- The Minimum Data Set (MDS) must be refreshed on a quarterly basis, supported by written narrative to explain the context to these changes.

- Any material changes must be communicated to the Director General for Health, Care and Prevention / NHS Wales Chief Executive, through an Accountable Officer letter.
- Quarterly updates on plan delivery should be submitted to HCP.PlanningTeam@gov.wales