

Agenda Item

2.5

Joint Commissioning Committee

Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	16/09/2025
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author	Heads of Commissioning for Cancer & Blood, Cardiac, Neurosciences & Long-Term Conditions, Women & Children and Intestinal Failure Commissioning Portfolios
Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter	Melanie Wilkey, Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services, NWJCC
Noddwr yr Adroddiad / Report Sponsor	Huw George, Chief Commissioner, NWJCC

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Noting Choose an item.
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Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
NWJCC Senior Leadership Team Meeting	04/09/25	Noted

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
ATMP	Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products
BMT	Bone Marrow Transplant
BSPRM	British Society of Physical Rehabilitation Medicine
CAR-T	Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell Therapy
CCLG	Collaborative Commissioning Leadership Group

CNS	Clinical Nurse Specialist
CUBRIC	Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre
CVUHB	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
DBS	Deep Brain Stimulation
ICP	Integrated Commissioning Plan
IOM	Intra Operating Monitoring
JACIE	Joint Accreditation Committee of the European BMT Society
NBT	North Bristol NHS Trust
NWJCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team
MWL	Mersey and West Lancashire NHS Trust
PET	Positron Emission Tomography
QSOC	Quality, Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee
RSSPPP	Regional Specialised Services Provider Planning Partnership
SABR	Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy
SBUHB	Swansea Bay University Health Board
SSCCG	Specialised Services Collaborative Commissioning Group
TAVI	Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation
WHSSC	Welsh Health Specialised Services
WIMOS	Welsh Institute of Metabolic and Obesity Surgery
WKN	Welsh Kidney Network

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

The NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) plans and commissions specialised and tertiary services on behalf of Local Health Boards in order to reduce duplication and ensure consistency.

This report provides the Joint Committee (JC) with an update on the work of the Specialised Services commissioning portfolios for:

- Cancer and Blood
- Cardiac
- Intestinal Failure
- Neurosciences and Long-Term Conditions
- Women and Children.

2. KEY UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMISSIONING FOR SPECIALISED SERVICES

2.1. Expansion of Thrombectomy Services in South Wales

From 1 July 2025, the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) thrombectomy service extended its operating hours to 08:00–15:00, Monday to Friday, with patients required to be on the table by 13:00. This complements the existing service at North Bristol NHS Trust, which operates from 06:00 to 00:00, with patients needing to arrive by 22:00. This development represents a significant step toward achieving 24/7 access for thrombectomy services in South Wales, improving outcomes and reducing travel times for stroke patients during CVUHB's

operating hours.

Despite this progress, South Wales patients still do not have access to a full 24/7 thrombectomy service, unlike patients in North Wales who benefit from continuous access via The Walton Centre in Liverpool. This presents an ongoing equity and access challenge that will require further commissioning consideration.

CVUHB have been asked to submit a revised business case by the end of September 2025, setting out an accelerated plan to extend hours of access to the current service (compared to the original business case approved by JC in January 2024) with line of sight to 24-7 provision.

2.2 SABR Provider Designation – BCUHB

Following a formal provider designation process, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) has been approved as a designated provider of Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR) for lung cancer. This decision was endorsed through NWJCC governance structures, including the Finance Working Group, Specialised Services Collaborative Commissioning Group (SSCCG), and final approval at the Collaborative Commissioning Leadership Group (CCLG) in June 2025.

This designation enables the repatriation of patients from England, allowing care to be delivered closer to home and potentially generating efficiencies through better use of existing services. A formal letter has been sent to BCUHB confirming the decision of CCLG and advising that NWJCC intends to commission the Health Board as a designated SABR provider for the population of North Wales.

2.3. JACIE Accreditation Risk – BMT and CAR-T Services at CVUHB

There is a significant risk to the Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) and Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell Therapy (CAR-T) services delivered by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) and the linked service at Swansea Bay Health Board. This is due to facilities not currently meeting the standards required by the Joint Accreditation Committee of the European BMT Society (JACIE). While the service currently holds JACIE accreditation, the expectation was that facilities would be upgraded ahead of the next inspection, scheduled for mid-September 2025.

If accreditation is not maintained:

- The CAR-T service would be suspended, as pharmaceutical companies will only supply products to JACIE-accredited centres
- The BMT service may either be suspended with patients referred to alternative accredited centres or continue under non-accredited status.

A capital investment plan is being finalised by CVUHB following engagement with Welsh Government, but it will not be implemented in time for the inspection. NWJCC and CVUHB are working jointly to mitigate this risk, including advising Welsh Government on the implications for service continuity and patient care.

With respect to CAR-T, NWJCC would no longer be able to commission the service in Wales and alternative pathways to centres in NHS England would need to be commissioned. Relationships with alternative CAR-T providers in England already exist (for example, for surge capacity when this is required). These pathways would form the basis for wider mitigating action to commission CAR-T for all eligible patients from England. However, there would be significant financial implications for NHS Wales due to duplication of costs, since the local investment in staff infrastructure would need to stay in place in order to select patients, provide longer term follow up and to be able to re-commence the service once JACIE accreditation is re-established.

With regard to BMT, there are alternative courses of action that could be taken in response to loss of JACIE accreditation which affect the commissioning risk and mitigations in different ways. The commissioning risk relates to either i) commissioning a service in south Wales that does not have JACIE accreditation, or ii) suspending the service in south Wales and commissioning alternative pathways to centres in NHS England. The risks and mitigations for these options have been worked through in an initial options appraisal that was included in the paper discussed at CCLG in August.

2.4. Cardiac Review Phase 2 – Project Initiation Document

The Project Initiation Document (PID) for Cardiac Review Phase 2 was discussed and agreed at the Collaborative Commissioning Leadership Group (CCLG). This phase will be delivered in collaboration with CVUHB, SBUHB, and the Regional Specialised Services Provider Planning Partnership (RSSPPP).

The PID outlines the scope and structure for progressing the review, including service specification development and options appraisal. Feedback from the JC Strategy Session highlighted that the timescales for the options appraisal may need to be adjusted into Q1/Q2 of 2025-2026 to allow for meaningful stakeholder engagement and wider consultation, ensuring robust and inclusive decision-making.

3. SPECIALISED SERVICES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSIONING GROUP (SSCCG)

Since the last JC meeting, there was a meeting of the SSCCG on 7 August 2025. The following areas were covered:

3.1 Strategic Development

3.1.1 NWJCC 2026–29 IMTP Planning

The current system pressures are shaping a cautious approach, focusing on recommissioning and delivering existing commissioned services. Horizon scanning and commissioning intelligence will inform priorities, with risks and efficiency opportunities assessed.

3.1.2 Commissioning Intentions

A draft list of priorities was presented, focusing on fragile services and legacy risks and strategies across Cancer & Blood, Cardiac, Intestinal Failure, Neurosciences, Kidney Network, and Women & Children's services.

3.2 Discussion Papers That Were Considered

3.2.1 Plastic Surgery

Options for transferring non-specialised adult plastic surgery to Health Boards were discussed. Challenges include coding accuracy and service sustainability. Further analysis and interim measures are needed. Paper has subsequently been discussed at Collaborative Commissioning Leadership Group and is on the Joint Committee agenda for this meeting.

3.2.2 Neurophysiology

A revised service specification is ready for consultation. The group discussed hosting options for a programme team and outsourcing demand/capacity analysis due to resource constraints.

3.2.3 Mechanical Thrombectomy

The South Wales service launched on 1 July 2025. Key risks include low referral rates, lack of 24/7 access, and financial exposure from a block contract with North Bristol Trust to maintain current access times. The commissioning team are closely monitoring activity to manage flow across between Health Boards, the South Wales Thrombectomy Centre and Southmead Hospital from a value for money perspective. A revised business case is in development by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, setting out how they propose to increase hours of access towards a 24/7 service at a faster pace than set out in the original business case agreed by JC in January 2024.

3.2.4 Intestinal Failure

An update was provided, outlining the opportunities for a new homecare framework. Migrating existing patients to new suppliers is needed to realise savings. Options for nursing provision and service redesign were discussed.

3.2.5 Specialist Fertility Treatment

Clarification was provided that access to fertility services should be via locally commissioned pathways leading to JCC-commissioned IVF.

3.2.6 Cystic Fibrosis (CF)

A value-based review was presented. Proposed actions include updating the service specification, workforce planning, and consistent commissioning of non-CFTR medicines. Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) referral issues were flagged for follow-up.

3.3 Cardiac Surgery Review

The Project Initiation Document (PID) for phases 2 and 3 was introduced. Concerns were raised about governance clarity and planning timelines. The group

agreed to proceed, with resource risks to be escalated as needed.

3.4 Governance and Other Business

3.4.1 Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

Plans to reopen the Bristol pathway were confirmed, with a service specification for functional neurosurgery to be developed to inform the designated provider process.

3.4.2 Governance Structures

Discussion on clarifying the roles and interactions between SSCG and the Finance Working Group, with SSCG proposed as a forum to support wider governance alignment.

Key risks by Commissioning Team are included in **Appendix 1** and highlights from each team in **Appendix 2**.

4. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)	Maximise Value
	If more than one applies please list below: Ensure Quality Reduce Duplication Improve Equity and Population Health
Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals 150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)	A Healthier Wales
	A More Equal Wales
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Enablers of Quality</i> (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Learning, Improvement & Research
Dolen i Feysydd	Effective

Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> Link to Domains of Quality <i>(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</i>	Efficient Equitable Person Centred Timely Safe
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	No - Not Applicable

Impact Assessment		
Ansawdd <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> Quality <i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	Not applicable at this stage
Cydraddoldeb	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? / Equality Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?	Outcome:	Not applicable at this stage
Cyfreithiol / Legal	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
Enw da / Reputational	Yes (Include further detail below)	
	Reputational impact of delivering those activities delegated to the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee	
Effaith Adnoddau <i>(Pobl /Ariannol) /</i> Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i>	Yes (Include further detail below)	
	Any resource implications associated with current specialised commissioning activities described in the paper are described within the body of the text.	

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Commissioning Committee is asked to:

- **Note** the Specialised Services commissioning updates provided in this report
- **Note** the summary of risks relating to the Specialised Services commissioning portfolio, mindful that these are managed by means of the NWJCC Risk Register and that risks and services in escalation are reported to the appropriate Sub-Committee for monitoring and scrutiny.

6. NEXT STEPS

Further updates will be provided at future meeting.