



CORE BRIEF TO MANAGEMENT GROUP MEMBERS

MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2024

This briefing sets out the key areas of discussion and decision. It aims to ensure the Management Group members have a common core brief to disseminate within their organisation.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting noting that, following on from the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings continued to be held via MS Teams.

2. Action Log

Members received an update on progress against the action log and **noted** the updates.

3. Escalation and De-escalation Framework Presentation

Members received a presentation on the WHSSC Commissioning Assurance Framework (CAF) escalation framework and members noted that WHSSC were committed to developing open and transparent relationships with its providers and worked with stakeholders when planning and commissioning services. Where concerns regarding the quality of services were identified and remedial action was required escalation processes were initiated and acted upon in a timely manner and were reported to the WHSSC Quality and Patient Safety Committee and to Health Boards (HBs).

Members **noted** the presentation.

4. Managing Director's Report

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

- **Increased thrombectomy access for Welsh patients in Bristol**
North Bristol NHS Trust have informed us that from 15 January 2024 they are able to offer access to thrombectomy for Welsh patients from 6.00am to 12.00am, with the last referral being accepted at 9.00pm in order that procedures can be completed by 12.00am. Currently the service accepts patients at 8.00am. Access to thrombectomy is increasing in south Wales with an average between December 2023 to June 2024 of 3.3 patients per month and for July to November 2023 an average of 6.0 patients per month. However the overall annual rate is 2.18% of stroke patients accessing thrombectomy which is still well below the target of 12.5%,

- **NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee Implementation** - We have been informed at the National Commissioning Review Oversight Board that it is unlikely that the Organisational Change Policy (OCP) process will be complete by 1 April 2024 and therefore a transitional model will be put in place. Development of the model will be undertaken by Welsh Government with 'sign off' by the Director General of NHS Wales. This work will be completed in the next few weeks; and
- **Business Continuity Risk for Specialised Services Commissioning** - WHSSC officers have identified a number of business continuity risks associated with the implementation of the National Commissioning Review related to:
 - 1. 'Bedding in' of new members of the Joint Commissioning Committee,
 - 2. Workforce gaps with risks in all portfolios and particular risks in mental health commissioning; and
 - 3. Finance operations.

These issues will be presented to the WHSSC Joint Committee on 30 January 2024.

Members **noted** the report.

5. Expansion of Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR) – Funding Release for New Indications and Expanding Existing Indications at Swansea Bay UHB

Members received a report requesting approval for the release of Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) funding to enable the implementation of new indications for Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR). The report also outlined the expansion of SABR provision at Swansea Bay UHB to a wider range of existing indications.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the release of Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) funding for new indications for Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR); and (3) **Noted** that WHSSC will commission an expansion of SABR in the South West Wales Cancer Centre (SWWCC) Swansea Bay UHB (SBUHB), for a range of existing indications currently delivered at Velindre Cancer Centre (VCC).

6. Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy (Car-T): Outsourcing for Additional Capacity

Members received a report providing an update on commissioning additional capacity for Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy (CAR-T) through outsourcing to NHS England.

Members (1) **Noted** the information in the report regarding Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy (CAR-T) demand, activity and capacity, (2) **Noted** the proposed approach for commissioning additional capacity for CAR-T through outsourcing to NHS England in accordance with the outsource framework; and (3) **Noted** a formal request will be made to Cardiff & Vale UHB (CVUHB) to submit a revised business case for CAR-T to inform a renegotiation of the contract.

7. Commissioning of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products in Wales

Members received a report providing an update on the Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product (ATMP) landscape highlighting the additional implications that are associated with them, and to set out a proposed ATMP commissioning framework that will inform implementation plans.

Members (1) **Noted** the current and future Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product (ATMP) positions and implementation progress to date, (2) **Noted** that further discussions are required to define the strategic partnership between the Advanced Therapies Wales Programme and WHSSC to determine the future balance of responsibilities, (3) **Noted** the development of a strategic partnership with NHS England for the provision of ATMPs for rare indications with low patient numbers, (4) **Noted** the proposed ATMP Commissioning Framework (Appendix 1), (5) **Noted** the development of an ATMP Commissioning Strategy for Wales; and (6) **Noted** the proposition that WHSSC (and from April 2024 its successor organisation, the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee) commission all NICE recommended ATMPs, including those recommended before May 2018.

8. Performance and Activity Report – November 2023

Members received a report providing a summary of the performance of WHSSC commissioned services. Further detail by resident Health Board was provided in an accompanying Power BI Dashboard report.

Members **noted** the report.

9. Financial Performance Report Month 9 2023-2024

Members received a report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for the 9th month of 2023-2024. The financial position was reported against the 2023-2024 baselines following approval of the 2023-2026 WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan by the Joint Committee in February 2023.

Members noted the year to date financial position reported at Month 9 for WHSSC (excluding EASC) was an underspend against the ICP financial plan of (£5.018m), the forecast year-end position was an underspend of (£10.416m).

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

10. Forward Work Plan

Members **noted** the forward work plan.

11. Any Other Business

- **NHS Wales Financial Planning 2024-2025** – members noted that the NHS Wales Directors of Finance (DoF) peer group had requested that the deputy DoF group develop a report on options

for managing the allocation uplift of 3.7%. The report will be shared with WHSSC; and

- **Farewell to Assistant Director of Finance, WHSSC** – members noted that it was James Leaves, Assistant Director of Finance, WHSSC’s last meeting since he joined WHSSC in 2009 as a Planning Accountant. Members thanked him for his hard work and commitment and wished him well in his new role with CVUHB.

