

Reporting Committee	Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)
Chaired by	Chair, Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)
Lead Executive Director	Director of Planning
Date of last meeting	1st February 2024

Summary of key matters considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.

This report provides assurance to the Joint Committee in accordance with the WKN Terms of Reference (ToR) which state that the Chair of the Welsh Kidney Network (the 'WKN') will provide reports to the Joint Committee following WKN meetings outlining the activities of the Network and bringing attention to any significant matters under consideration by the Network. Minutes are available on request from the WKN Coordinator, Jonathan.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk.

1. STRATEGIC NETWORK ISSUES

1.1 Joint Commissioning Committee

Work is ongoing within the WKN to produce a 'Legacy Statement' to support the move into the new Joint Commissioning Committee from April 1st 2024. The legacy statement will enable the transfer of knowledge from the Welsh Kidney Network to the new Joint Commissioning Committee including its specific role and composition together with key achievements of the Network since it was established in 2009, current issues and risks.

1.2 Strategic Framework and Delivery Plan

Work has commenced to develop a 5 Year Strategic Framework and Delivery Plan (2024-2029), with the support of the JCC Assistant Director of Planning. The 2024/25 objectives and deliverables for the WKN were agreed as part of the Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) for 2024/2025 and in-year oversight of delivery is through the WKN Board.

1.3 Financial Strategy

The challenging financial position and the overall specialised services financial plan as agreed in the ICP 2024/25 has been outlined to and understood by the members of the Network. With the backdrop of inflationary pressures, a projected ongoing increase in demand for renal services and the understanding that kidney dialysis is life-sustaining treatment, there is a need for an increased focus on how the Network utilises its resources in the most effective and efficient way, within the commissioning budget of approximately £80m. This

will be a key collective focus of the Network in the first quarter of 2024/25, including receipt of an externally-commissioned demand and capacity report and exploring opportunities for mitigating growth through early intervention as well as opportunities to manage cost pressures within Medicines Management. The Network will also continue with its Value In Healthcare projects focusing on increasing the number of patients opting for transplantation and home dialysis, as opposed to unit dialysis being the default treatment option.

1.4 Clinical Leadership

The clinical leadership team within the WKN has been strengthened by the appointment of a Clinical Lead for Prevention, who will provide clinical leadership for the strategic development of primary and secondary prevention on behalf of the Welsh Kidney Network. The Lead will contribute to the growth mitigation work outlined above as well as contributing to the work that will be required to implement the NHS Wales Quality Statement for Kidney Disease.

2. ISSUES REPORTED FROM REGIONS

2.1 South East Wales Region – There are a number of areas within the region that currently have impact on service delivery. Specifically the rate of growth within the region (currently profiling at 6%) and the absence of sufficient theatre capacity for transplantation which impacts the Network’s aim for ‘Transplant First’. The issue has been escalated through SLA meeting with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

Having been recognised as a centre of excellence for adopting digital working and workforce planning, the renal Unit within Cardiff and the Vale received a visit from the Chief Nursing Officer on 6th February 2024.

2.2 South West Wales Region – The timescales for the two new units in the South West Wales region have slipped, with current delivery dates being:

- Bridgend - December 2024
- Neath Port - Talbot May 2025

The slippage in programme for the new builds is outside the control of the service as it is linked to availability of suitable site areas and planning processes. The risk is included on the WKN risk register and the Swansea bay UHB risk register.

The equipment replacement programme and dialysis unit upgrades programme of work continues with no risk to timings. The West Wales site is due to receive its equipment by March 2024.

The WKN Board received an update on the lack of Interventional Radiology Services within Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) which is now

having an impact on the clinical service delivery of the South West Wales Region. The risk has been included on the WKN risk register, and will feature likewise on the SBUHB risk register. In order to mitigate the risk, the team within SBUHB have developed a business case to expand the role of a Nephrologist which is with consideration by the Health Board.

2.3 North Wales Region – Challenges with regard the operating model in BCUHB continue to impact flexibility across the Health Board and discussions regarding this are underway with the Executive team.

The 6-day unit dialysis service operating within Wrexham is at risk due to the potential removal of funding for the patient transportation element of the service. Although this is not a commissioning responsibility of the Welsh Kidney Network the potential removal of funding would increase the demand on existing unit dialysis slots and would reduce the availability for patients in one part of the region. The issue has been included on the WKN risk register, and subsequently raised through Betsi Cadwalader UHB Executive Team with the anticipation of continued funding post April 2024.

3. Quality and Patient Safety

A verbal update was provided by the Deputy Network Manager on the risks and mitigating actions within the WKN risk register.

4. Highlight Reports

The following highlight reports were received at the Network Board meeting:

- Kidney Care UK Highlight Report
- Kidney Wales Highlight Report
- Popham Kidney Support Report
- Clinical Information Lead Highlight Report
- Lead Nurse Work Programme update
- Workforce Audit update
- SBUHB Highlight Report
- BCUHB Highlight Report
- CVUHB Highlight Report
- Transplant and Vascular Access Clinical Lead Highlight Report

Matters requiring Committee level consideration and/or approval

None.

Matters referred to other Committees

- **None**

Date of next meeting

22nd April 2024