

<b>Reporting Committee</b>	<b>Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)</b>
<b>Chaired by</b>	<b>Chair, Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)</b>
<b>Lead Executive Director</b>	<b>Director of Planning and Performance</b>
<b>Date of last meeting</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>

**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 bring attention to any significant matters under consideration by the Network. Minutes are available on request from the WKN Coordinator, [Jonathan.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk).

**1. STRATEGIC NETWORK ISSUES**

**Dialysis Unit Expansion – South West Wales:**

A detailed Project Report was presented to the Network Board, detailing the current progress and risks associated with the expansion of the unit dialysis service within South West Wales including 2 additional units as well as the refurbishment of units within the Hywel Dda UHB footprint and machine upgrades. The refurbishment has proceeded well and is concluded, and the report on the additional units are as follows. It was noted that the NPT Unit is delayed and this is having an impact on patients who are dialysing in 'twilight' sessions in the evening:

- **Bridgend** – Construction work has started on the 21 station unit, within Brackla, Bridgend. The estimated opening date is 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Current projections are that there are 53 patients currently dialysing in existing units within the South West and South East regions. Patients will be relocated on a staggered basis and the aim is for the unit to be fully operational by the second week of opening.
- **Neath Port Talbot** – Locating a suitable site within the Neath Port Talbot area has been problematic, however a site has now been located for the 27 station unit, pre-application has been submitted with full planning application to be completed by September 2024. There have been some delays to the programme due to the previously identified site being deemed unsuitable. The estimated date of opening June 2025, which is a delay to original programme of 12 months, and as noted above this has an impact on patients. There is not full assurance on the delivery to the revised timescale but weekly meetings are in place with contractor and escalation process into WKN if required. The risk is on both the SBUHB and JCC risk registers.

**Value in Healthcare:**

The regional projects are progressing well, with an end of year report for 2023/24 to be submitted to the August Network Board including details of impact of the projects and investment which are:

- All Wales approach to `Transplant First and Kidney Risk Equation tool. Led South West Wales region
- Improving the number of patients with known progressive Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) to pre-emptive transplant listing and home dialysis options. Led by South West Wales region
- Development of a prehabilitation service. Led by South East Wales region
- Increasing patient numbers in Transplantation and Home Therapies. Led by the North Wales region.

The Network is still yet to receive formal notification on the recurrent funding of £446K but this is expected.

**Financial Plan:**

As acknowledged in the ICP 2024/25 there is an anticipated shortfall of £0.87m for JCC-commissioned Renal Services in 2024-2025 due to price increases and ongoing growth in demand for dialysis. A paper was presented to Board identifying £0.531m of potential cost savings that the WKN can pursue from its own delegated budget which was supported and agreed. Further work will continue with the regions to bridge the shortfall and an update paper will be presented to the August Board.

**Clinical Leadership:**

A presentation was provided to Board by the WKN Clinical Lead, outlining the proposal to utilise the funding for the vacant post of Home Dialysis Clinical lead for an Acute Kidney Injury Clinical lead. Members of the Board agreed the proposal on the basis of developing this prevention agenda and that the overall WKN Clinical Lead will pick up the lead for Home Dialysis as part of his role. An Expression of Interest process will commence alongside the recruitment of a Clinical Lead for Transplant and Vascular Access which is also currently vacant.

**2. ISSUES REPORTED FROM REGIONS****South East Wales Region:**

Additional Nephrology sessions have been secured in Aneurin Bevan UHB, but a risk remains with regard to the administrative support business case being taken forward within the UHB .

Access to General Anaesthetic lists continues to be a risk for the service, impacting on transplant and/or access to home therapy. An SBAR has been developed and supported by C&VUHB Clinical Board (March 2024), however this is still awaiting a UHB decision. The Network Board agreed to keep a watching brief on this issue which is on the WKN Risk Register and the WKN team will pick it up at the regional performance meetings and escalate if necessary.

There are continued pressures within the Consultant and Junior Medical workforce, however these are being mitigated by recruitment and job planning.

Unit Dialysis capacity is challenging and a substantial risk is currently being tolerated by the service but the development of the Bridgend Unit should have a positive impact on capacity as previously highlighted.

**South West Wales Region:**

An update was provided on the dialysis unit expansion programme as outlined above.

There has been no movement on the business proposal for an Interventional Nephrologist, with a Health Board decision awaited. This impacts on renal services because patients may experience a lack of or delayed access to appropriate radiology interventions such as fistuloplasty or kidney biopsy bleed embolization, resulting in worse patient clinical outcomes, fewer choices available to patients and more dialysis line related complications such as infections . This risk is on the SBUHB risk register and WKN Commissioning risk register.

IT - Recruitment into the Renal IT position is a priority currently with Health Board Vacancy panel and this relates to the mitigation of a risk on the WKN Risk Register.

**North Wales Region:**

Work is ongoing to align the two data sources that capture renal activity which will increase data accuracy and reporting.

Capacity remains an issue across North Wales, with restrictions associated within the 3 Integrated Health Communities (IHC) operating model. The risk are being mitigated by successfully increasing Home Therapies with the UHB leading on the proportion of patients on Home dialysis in Wales.

An option appraisal exercise has been held in St Asaph to review the options for increasing capacity within Ysbyty Glan Clwyd (YGC), with a business case to be submitted into the Central IHC.

Funding negotiations for the 6 day Non-Emergency Transport service provision are still not concluded for 2024/2025 and this is reflected within the WKN Commissioning risk register.

**Quality and Patient Safety:**

The Board received the Risk Register, noting that there are currently 12 active risks and 5 of these score 15 or above and therefore remain on the Commissioning Risk Assurance Framework (CRAF):

- WKN 06 Renal Funding (16),
- WKN 08 Limited outpatient dialysis capacity in Swansea (16),
- WKN 15 Lack of Interventional Radiology in Swansea Bay UHB (16),
- WKN 18 Renal Capacity across Wales (16).

- Increase risk WKN (Team) 01 Team capacity increase to 16.

There were 2 risks to be closed proposed and agreed by Network Board:

- WKN 05 Insufficient renal transport provision for unit dialysis patients. Closure rationale NEPTs agreement on the reporting of standardised transport data and transport Datix information on a regular basis into WKN QPS and into local HB teams, controls will be in place and this is not felt to be an ongoing risk –this risk can be closed and removed from risk register
- WKN 07 Inadequate nurse staffing levels at both NHS and ISP managed dialysis facilities. Closure rationale, financial plans have been drawn up to look at the areas of reducing the funding gap of £0.82m. Will form part of the financial reporting at regional levels and board

There was one new risk presented to to the Board:

- WKN 21 - All Wales Renal IT service provision – risk scored at 9 The existing IT service provision which includes people and information systems remain 'as is' across Wales, then there will be an inadequate service provision through lack of resource, defined roles and expertise, to maintain and develop an all Wales provision, resulting in a fragile service that does not meet the needs of Clinical Teams, Commissioning teams and Renal Patients.

A number of additional items were discussed under this agenda item as follows:

- There is work ongoing to standardise the QPS reporting within the regional provider meetings and to the Network Board, including implementation of the national Datix Renal reporting.
- The QPS Clinical Lead reported that work has commenced to examine issues arising from recent national reports as follows:
  - UKKA Inequity of access to kidney transplant waiting list – why does Wales have lower pre-emptive transplant and wait-listing rates than the rest of the UK? [Disparities Report | The UK Kidney Association](#)
  - Action - ensure Transplant first report is available to all and start to review in regional and QPS meetings
  - UKKA Disparity reports – differences in age in particular across Wales in who is starting RRT – does this reflect population differences or treatment differences? [Disparities Report | The UK Kidney Association](#)
  - Action – review the frailty data from the dialysis units – to consider a standalone piece of work on casemix differences across Wales (and if there is to share and discuss)
  - UKKA PREM portal data [PREM | Tableau Public](#)
  - Action – to clarify what other PREM info is collected (ISP, HB, other) – review what we do with the information.

### **3. ADDITIONALS REPORTS**

The following reports were presented to Board for endorsement:

- Welsh Kidney Network Annual report 2023/24
- National AKI Guidelines which will be hosted by the Welsh Kidney Network

#### **4. HIGHLIGHT REPORTS**

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

- WKN Central Team report including Lead Nurse
- Housing updated position
- Popham Support
- Kidney Care UK Highlight Report
- Kidney Wales Highlight Report
- Clinical Information Lead Highlight Report
- Prevention Lead Highlight Report
- Medicines Management Highlight Report
- Health and Wellbeing Professionals Highlight Report
- 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**

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**