



Agenda Item
2.3

Joint Commissioning Committee

Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	21/01/2025
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author	Shane Mills, Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups
Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter	Shane Mills, Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups
Noddwr yr Adroddiad / Report Sponsor	Stacey Taylor, Interim Chief Commissioner

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
JCC Senior Leadership Team Meeting	06/01/2025	Noted

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
MHLDVG	Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centres
TSW	Traumatic Stress Wales
JCC	Joint Commissioning Committee
MSU	Medium Secure Unit
WHSSC	Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee
CPTSD	Complex post-traumatic stress disorder
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
PtHB	Powys teaching Health Board

HB	Health Board
NHSE	NHS England
CQC	Care Quality Commission
NOG	National Oversight Group

1. SITUATION

The purpose of this report is to provide Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) members with an update on key issues of the Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups Directorate that have arisen since the last JCC meeting which took place on 12 November 2024.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups Directorate

The Directorate is responsible for commissioning:

- High secure services for adults with a mental illness or learning disability
- Medium secure services for adults and children with a mental illness or learning disability
- Hospital services for children with mental illness
- Hospital services for adults and children with an eating disorder
- Eating Disorder Outreach Services
- Perinatal inpatient services
- Low secure single commissioner consideration project
- NHS 111 press option 2 for mental health
- Forensic Adolescent Community Teams
- Hospital services for adults with a neuropsychiatric disorder
- Gender identity disorder services for adults and children
- Futures programme jointly with the Royal College of Psychiatrists Wales
- Hospital services for deaf persons with a mental illness
- Traumatic Stress Wales (TSW) Programme
- Commissioning parts of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) programme

Since being established the Directorate has:

- Proposed commissioning intentions for 2025/2026 which incorporates all the predecessor organisations strategies and work programmes
- Established the MHLDVG Commissioning Group with Health Board (HB) representation
- Revised the Directorate risk register and aligned it to the proposed commissioning intentions
- Proposed a new Directorate staffing structure

2.2 High Secure Services

The JCC commissions high secure hospital services from Ashworth and Rampton Hospitals via the NHS England (NHSE) contracting arrangements. These hospitals

provide comprehensive Mental Health and Learning Disability care, including therapeutic services, rehabilitation, and social integration, within a secure environment that ensures the safety of both the patients and the public. The physical security arrangements of high secure hospitals are equivalent to a Category B prison but can treat patients who would be in a Category A prison environment.

There have been some recent issues raised by NHSE and the JCC, regarding the fitness of the estate at Ashworth Hospital. There is an outline business case, that has been developed by MerseyCare NHS Trust (provider of services at Ashworth), for a new building on the current Ashworth site. This plan is supported by the JCC.

The JCC have previously commissioned High Secure care at Broadmoor Hospital in Berkshire. This service has recently been rebuilt to a very high, modern specification. However, due to new commissioning catchment areas, decided by NHSE, Welsh residents are unable to access services at this site.

The quality of some services at Rampton Hospital (provided by Nottingham NHS Trust) have raised concern with NHSE, JCC and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) recently. This has led to the service being put into enhanced monitoring status by the CQC and the service only being relicensed on an annual basis instead of the usual 5 years. Improvement is monitored by commissioners at the quarterly National Oversight Group (NOG), of which the JCC has membership.

2.3 Traumatic Stress Wales

Traumatic Stress Wales (TSW) was established in April 2020, is funded by Welsh Government (WG) and was hosted by the predecessor organisation, the Welsh Health Specialised Services (WHSSC).

TSW defines itself as a 'national quality improvement initiative that works through a network of easily accessible, locally based services centred around the people they are trying to help with streamlined care pathways to avoid unnecessary repeated referral and assessment'. TSW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages living in Wales who have been affected by traumatic events. It also aims to raise trauma-informed awareness and practice across Wales and has a particular focus on those at risk of developing or with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD).

The initiative covers children, young people and adults and received £1.724 million of funding in 2024/25 from WG, of which £0.9 million is provided by JCC to the HBs to fund the additional staff required to deliver the required services.

The creation of the JCC has led to the implementation of a new, overarching governance and accountability structure and it necessary to review the particular governance and reporting arrangements for a number of specific services. A review of TSW started in December 2024 to consider the optimum delivery

mechanism for the national objectives of TSW and the adequacy of the systems and controls in place within the NWJCC in relation to the management of TSW.

The review will seek to provide assurance to the JCC via the Chief Commissioner that TSW is currently operating effectively and systems are being managed appropriately and there is clarity on purpose and objectives within the new arrangements for the JCC. The review will engage with stakeholders that include HBs and WG and will be complete by the end of February 2025 and reported to the JCC.

2.4 Internal Audit Quality Aspects of the National Frameworks

The JCC currently manage two National Collaborative Frameworks, one which covers mental health and learning disability hospitals, which has been in place since 2012, and another which covers mental health and learning disability care homes, which has been in place since 2016. There are currently circa 800 patients placed with one of the 127 NHS England or independent sector providers of care on these frameworks at a cost of circa £149 million per annum.

A fundamental feature of these frameworks is to provide assurance to HBs that the providers of care comply with the contracted performance and quality requirements.

As part of the annual JCC internal audit programme for 2024-2025 an internal audit has been undertaken to “*assess the effectiveness of the arrangements in the JCC to oversee the quality and safety aspects of the commissioning of mental health and learning disability placements*”.

The audit was undertaken between October and December 2024 and included the auditor accompanying staff on a site visit as well as reviewing audit planning processes and procedures.

The overall internal audit assurance rating was that of ‘Reasonable Assurance’, split between four sections which are detailed below with the corresponding assurance rating. The full report was presented to the CTMUHB Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) on 17 December 2024.

Objectives	Related Findings	Assurance
1 The JCC has a formal and comprehensive approach, undertaken by suitably qualified and trained staff, to assess the quality of mental health care provision	-	Substantial
2 The performance of each care provider is appropriately, accurately, and confidentially recorded, and issues of concern are followed-up to ensure that they have been resolved.	1	Reasonable
3 Any outstanding issues of concern are escalated appropriately, and areas of good practice are disseminated.	1	Reasonable
4 Systems are in place to assess whether the services provided ensure value for money.	-	Substantial

The audit found one 'Medium Priority' action concerning an issue with a delayed post-audit feedback to a provider, which has been subsequently rectified by strengthening the audit planning process.

3. KEY RISKS / MATTERS FOR ESCALATION

In November 2024 a significant fire at the Taith Newydd Low Secure Unit at Glanrhyd Hospital resulted in the patients being decanted to the Caswell Clinic NHS Medium Secure Unit. This has impacted on the availability medium secure beds for South Wales. There are ongoing discussions with the provider HB about longer term solutions.

4. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)	Maximise Value
	Ensure Quality
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
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Enablers of Quality</i> (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Whole-systems Perspective
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Domains of Quality</i> (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Effective
	If more than one applies please list below:
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) /	No - Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:

Environmental / Sustainability Impact (5Rs)		
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:	If no, please include rationale below: Update report to the JCC
Cydraddoldeb <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i> Equality <i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below: Update report to the JCC
Cyfreithiol / Legal	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
Enw da / Reputational	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
	However, many of the areas within MH, LD and VG have specific areas of interest and have additional public scrutiny	
Effaith Adnoddau (Pobl / Ariannol) / Resource Impact (People / Financial)	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The JCC is asked to:

- **Note** the report.

6. NEXT STEPS

- **High Secure Services** - to report on progress through the JCC Quality Safety and Outcomes Committee.
- **Traumatic Stress Wales**- To present the review report to the JCC in March.
- **Medium Secure Services** - to report on progress through the JCC Quality Safety and Outcomes Committee.