

SOUTH WALES TRAUMA NETWORK DELIVERY ASSURANCE GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT Q3
2023/24 – MAY 2024

Reporting Committee:	South Wales Trauma Network Delivery Assurance Group
Chaired by:	Director of Planning and Performance
Lead Executive Director:	Director of Planning and Performance
Date of last DAG meeting:	29 February 2024
Summary of key matters considered by the Committee and any related decisions made	
<p>This report summarises the South Wales Trauma Network (SWTN) Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) report for Quarter 3 2023/24 and provides a summary of its highlights. The paper further advises of efforts to mitigate the impact of the cybersecurity attack on the Trauma Audit Research Network (TARN) database being taken offline and recommends an approach to handling the TARN data backlog.</p>	
1. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION	
2.1 South Wales Trauma Network Q3 highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway 5 Review: Shortly after the February DAG meeting, a Welsh Government Gateway 5 Review of the SWTN was undertaken. The Review Team recommended a Delivery Confidence rating of Green and noted strong evidence of effective delivery. The Gateway Review Team concluded that the programme is in a steady state, with much of the original vision for a Major Trauma Network now delivered and early evidence indicating that the Network is on track to meet the outcomes expected from the Full Business Case and Benefits Realisation Plan. A concern relating to the hiatus in data collection through TARN was noted, and it was recommended that further thought be given to the overall programme informatics strategy. • New appointments: The SWTN has appointed Dr Jonathan Lambley as substantive Network Clinical Director, Dr Michelle Jardine as the new substantive Paediatric Lead, and has advised that Dr Kosta Morley has been appointed to continue his role as the education lead. • Training and Education: The first courses of the Major Trauma Life Support (MTLS) programme were launched October 2023, with further dates booked for March 2024. Following the success of the Spinal Injury Awareness study days, the ODN has committed to further dates for 2024/25, and the SWTN are supporting the Major Trauma Centre (MTC) to facilitate surgical damage control courses and a further trauma team simulation course. 	

- **Repatriation:** Repatriation challenges were evident throughout Q3 as a result of receiving hospitals experiencing high demand and capacity issues. Although these challenges resulted in repatriation times increasing and a rise in the number of patients waiting over 7 days, the ODN is supporting all health boards to ensure the safe repatriation of major trauma patients.
- **Direct Access Programme for Open Fractures:** The ODN continues to work with stakeholders to provide a Direct Access programme for open fractures in Morriston Hospital. It is intended that this programme will enable the Welsh Ambulance Service to take patients directly to Orthoplastics in Morriston Hospital in the event that they present with a lower limb open fracture.
- **Trauma Team activation audit:** Although subject to some delays, a full activation audit report has been completed. This shows a variation in practice across the network with some common themes being highlighted and will be brought to the next DAG for discussion.
- **Annual Conference:** The SWTN have confirmed that the Network's Annual Conference will be held in the SBUHB locality on 17 October 2024.

2. ISSUES AND RISKS

Although the SWTN currently has 22 risks identified on its log, it was agreed to highlight two serious risks to the Joint Commissioning Committee:

2.1 TARN database

TARN is the national clinical audit for traumatic injury across England, Wales, Ireland and a number of hospitals across Europe. It holds the second largest global trauma registry and has become a key national provider for the delivery of evidence of quality of trauma care for both clinical and commissioning purposes. Hosted by the University of Manchester, the database was taken offline at midday on 15 June 2023 as the result of a cyber-attack, leading to a significant gap in the provision of benchmarking and performance data.

In response to the cyber-attack, it was agreed that: the TARN system will no longer be hosted by the University of Manchester; the long term solution will be a new platform developed within the NHS England data repository as part of NHSE National Outcomes Registries Programme; NHS Wales will be able to use the new NHS England platform; and that an interim solution of a standardised Excel spreadsheet will be developed by TARN to be used by all Networks across England, Wales and Ireland although, as a result of delays in receiving said spreadsheet, the SWTN developed its own digital template to facilitate data collection.

Notwithstanding extensive delays in transferring the process from Manchester University to NHSE, the new National Major Trauma Registry has made progress and had a go-live date of 1 April 2024. The SWTN has, however, identified significant concerns with data loss relating to those cases that would have been uploaded to the TARN database during the period that it has been offline, data which would otherwise have been used for reporting and audit purposes, as well as evidencing the Benefits Realisation Plan. The SWTN has estimated that for the period Q4 2022/23 to Q2 2023/24, some 2,798 cases remain to be submitted to TARN, of which only a proportion have been added to the SWTN interim spreadsheet. The cost of addressing this backlog was estimated at being between £76,531 and £142,627, subject to staff bandings.

The SWTN has considered a number options intended to address the backlog, including that:

- No data submitted for the time period TARN was offline
- The SWTN submit as much data as possible from the local ODN spreadsheets
- TARN Coordinators keep electronic list of patients to be uploaded to TARN
- The SWTN complete the backlog, for which there is currently no allocated or available resource
- The Network engage of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to automate data collection, noting both methodological limitations and start-up costs.

The SWTN Clinical and Operational Board and Delivery Assurance Group both endorsed the recommendation that the cost of addressing the TARN backlog exceeded the benefits as a result of it taking over a year to complete and given that all other trauma centres will be a subject to the same data gap. This gap will preclude benchmarking with NHSE Networks and significantly limit the availability of quality longitudinal data. The data gap was an issue recognised by the Gateway 5 Review, and it is highlighted to the JCC that there will be a gap of around 12 months in the reporting on a number of benefits in the benefits realisation plan.

2.2 SWTN Orthoplastic service

The split-site orthoplastic model encompassed by the SWTN has, when coupled with the constraints of launching the SWTN during the Covid pandemic, encouraged a siloed approach to the orthoplastic provision across CVUHB and SBUHB, resulting in a vulnerable orthoplastic nursing workforce in the MTC. The SWTN is undertaking a review of the Orthoplastics service which will be presented at the next DAG.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Leadership Team is asked to endorse for approval by Joint Commissioning Committee the recommendations that:

- Joint Commissioning Committee **note** the South Wales Trauma Network Quarter 3 2023/24 highlights identified by the Chair of the Delivery Assurance Group
- Joint Commissioning Committee **support** the recommendation that the TARN backlog is not submitted, acknowledging that this would entail a data gap of at least 9 months.

In the event that these recommendations are supported by the Joint Commissioning Committee, the Chair of the SWTN DAG will:

- Acknowledge the success of the SWTN in securing a Gateway 5 Delivery Confidence rating of Green and convey the compliments of the Joint Commissioning Committee
- Advise the SWTN that the TARN backlog is not to be submitted
- Monitor the ongoing implementation of the new National Major Trauma Registry and the SWTN's efforts to develop continuity plans that mitigate the loss of data in the event of future system failures.