

JOINT COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE (JCC) MEETING BRIEFING – 21 MAY 2024

The Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) held its latest public meeting on 21 May 2024. This briefing sets out the key areas of consideration and aims to ensure everyone is kept up to date with what is happening within the JCC.

The papers for the meeting can be accessed using the link below:
[Meeting Dates and Papers - NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee.](#)

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the JCC meeting held on the 23 April 2024 were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to a minor amendment to the list of attendees.

2. Action log and matters arising

Members **noted** the progress on the actions outlined on the action log.

3. Chairs Report

Members received the Chair's Report and **noted**:

- **JCC Induction Programme** – introductory meetings had been held with key personnel and partners, including Lay Members, JCC Directors, HB Chairs and CEOs, and a local induction session had commenced in tandem with the Welsh Government (WG) NHS Wales Induction Programme for Independent Members (IMs) taking place on 23 April, 4 June and 11 June 2024.
- **Appointment of Lay Members** - In order to establish the new JCC the Welsh Government Public Appointments Unit undertook a public appointments recruitment process to appoint a new Chair and 3 independent lay members in readiness for 1 April 2024. Now that the JCC had been established and we are into the transition process it has been agreed to proceed with recruiting the final two lay members in accordance with the National Health Service Joint Commissioning Committee (Wales) Regulations 2024 and the JCC Standing Orders and Welsh Government has commenced this process. It was agreed that Dr Paul Worthington was assigned as the interim Audit and Finance led for the CTMUHB Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) for hosted bodies; and that Susan Elsmore was assigned to the role of Chair of the Quality and Patient Safety Committee (QPSC) for the JCC for an interim period until the full complement of 5 lay members were appointed; and
- **Key Meetings attended by the Chair.**

Members **noted** the report.

4. Appointment of Vice Chair

Members received a report proposing that a Vice Chair is appointed to the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) from the Lay Members to ensure business continuity should the Chair be absent due to leave or for other reasons. It was agreed that Nia Roberts, Lay Member, be appointed to the role of Vice Chair of the JCC for 2 years until 30 April 2026, in accordance with section 6.1.4 the JCC Standing Orders (SO's). It was noted that the role does not attract additional remuneration.

5. Interim Chief Commissioners Report

Members received the interim Chief Commissioners Report and **noted** the following updates:

- **Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Service** - DBS services for people in South Wales with Parkinson's disease and movement disorders have been provided by the North Bristol NHS Trust (NBNHST). However, the JCC (previously WHSSC) was made aware of concerns relating to these services, particularly relating to communication regarding post-surgery care. Following several discussions with NBNHST, these were unable to be brought to a timely resolution. As a result, WHSSC needed to identify a temporary solution to ensure new patients from South Wales had access to high quality DBS services moving forward. Within this context the JCC (previously WHSSC) determined an urgent temporary service change was deemed necessary. This was discussed with Llais Wales who supported this decision. A 'designated provider process' was undertaken and an additional service provider had been designated (St Georges University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust). To minimise disruption and maintain continuity for those patients who were already in the pathway or who had undergone DBS in NBNHST, it had been agreed they would continue to receive follow-up care as planned. The report also confirmed that commissioning discussions regarding the re-establishment of access to the NBNHST.
- **JCC Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP)** - The Interim Chief Commissioner outlined proposals for the development of the 2025/2026 JCC Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) that recognises that 2024/2025 is a transition year as the JCC becomes fully established. It is proposed that the plan is developed with an overarching corporate and aligned strategic intent section, and single financial plan, with three implementation plans ('chapters') for:
 - Ambulance Commissioning,
 - Specialised Services Commissioning; and
 - Mental Health and Vulnerable Groups Commissioning (and NCCU)

With the intention that there will be further integration from 2026/2027 onwards. Work is being undertaken with the NHS Wales Directors of Planning peer group to identify any lessons learned from the process for this years plans, and a Finance Working Group is being established by the JCC Director of Finance and Information. A more detailed report on the development of the JCC's IMTP will be presented at the JCC on 16 July 2024.

- **Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS) workshop** - In December 2023, EASC endorsed the development of a new future vision for Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS), following the formal closure of the 2016 NEPTS Business Case. On 20 April 2024, the JCC Team held a NEPTS Future Vision Event. This event was the first phase in working in collaboration with NHS Wales organisations and external partners, to shape a new vision for the NEPTS in Wales. The work will be brought into the JCC for consideration at key decision points and key milestones.
- **111 Update** - responsibility for the commissioning of 111 call handling and clinical advice transferred to the JCC on 1st April 2024. The transfer went smoothly and there remains close liaison with the former 111 team now part of the urgent and emergency care 6 goal support team in the NHS Executive. The implementation of the new Call Answering System (CAS) in the last 10 days went well and service continuity was maintained, although some temporary dips in performance have been noted. The new CAS will offer opportunities to enhance existing services and members will be kept up to date with progress,
- **Adult Specialised Rehabilitation Services Commissioning Strategy** - The JCC is responsible for commissioning Specialised Rehabilitation Services for neurological conditions on behalf of the seven Health Boards. Services are delivered by tertiary centres across NHS sites in Wales and England. The commissioning strategy for adult specialised rehabilitation services will set out the JCC overall vision and priorities for the next five years to improve equitable access to high quality specialised rehabilitation services for the adult population of Wales. The draft strategy was considered by the WHSSC Management Group in February 2024 and was supported for consideration by the WHSSC Joint Committee in March 2024, however this was delayed due to the transition to the new JCC. The draft strategy is currently being finalised and will be brought to the JCC later in the year and will be issued for stakeholder stakeholder feedback. The final strategy will be brought to the JCC in the final quarter for approval to be reflected in the 2025/2026 IMTP; and
- **NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee establishment** - The programme of work to establish the new NHS Wales JCC came to fruition on 1 April 2024. The final WG Oversight Board

meeting was held on 30 April 2024 to complete the programme. JCC members received the transitional plan for Quarter 1 2024-2025 at its meeting on 9 April 2024. As recommended in the Q1 transition plan, a Transition/Transformation Director is being appointed to work with the Chair, Chief Commissioner, JCC and JCC directors to support the development of the JCC Operating Model which will bring the governance framework into operation and ensure delivery of the commissioning plans for 2024/2025. Assurance reports will be reported to the JCC as appropriate.

Members **noted** the report.

6. Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) Service Review Update on Implementation Plan

Members received a report providing an update on the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) Service Review.

Members noted that the JCC at its meeting on 23 April 2024, agreed to support the recommendations set out in the EMRT Service Review report, and had requested that additional detail on the implementation plan for the bespoke road-based response service be brought back to the May meeting outlining key milestones.

Members noted that the Wales Air Ambulance Charity Trust (WAACT) had welcomed the decision of the Committee to accept the recommendations of the Review. As a result of the decision, the Charity had begun active engagement with their stakeholders on the implementation of the recommendations, and continued to monitor the public and stakeholder reaction to the decision and the impact on their income and funding position and will provide regular updates on any emerging risks to the Charity's operation to the Committee.

Members noted that as a result of the decision the Charity and its staff had been subject to difficult and inappropriate comments and behaviours and that the Charity were providing additional support to its staff in response to this.

Members noted that the EMRTS leadership team had welcomed the certainty the decision brought for them and their operational teams. The leadership team were focused on the development of the operational implementation plan and supporting its staff across Wales through the changes required as part of the implementation.

Members noted that initial discussions had been held with the Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust (WAST) and the Clinical Director of EMRTS on the development of a bespoke road-based service and they had confirmed their organisational support for the development and implementation of such a service. A task and finish group will lead a delivery plan on the development of the commissioning

requirements for the bespoke road-based model and will provide update briefings and recommendations for approval to the JCC following each meeting against the milestones. In addition, routine updates on progress against the project plan and communication and engagement plan will also be provided. The JCC will receive the outcome of this work at its October meeting.

Members (1) **Discussed** and **approved** the timeline for the delivery of the commissioning approach for the bespoke road based model, (2) **Discussed** and **approved** the proposed membership and chair of the Task and Finish Group, (3) **Discussed** and **noted** the public and stakeholder position in relation to the decision of the JCC, (4) **Discussed** and **noted** the WAACT position in relation to the decision of the JCC; and (5) **Discussed** and **noted** the EMRTS Leadership team position in relation to the decision of the JCC.

7. Neonatal Transformation Programme Phase 2

Members received a report providing an update on the agreed Neonatal Transformation Programme Phase 2 review to undertake strategic planning on the service model and designation of cots to ensure an efficient and sustainable model is in place to support optimal outcomes for the mothers and babies in Wales. It was noted that it had previously been agreed that this review would be undertaken jointly between the JCC and Health Boards due to the need to consider neonatal and maternity services together.

Members noted the engagement which had been undertaken with the NHS Wales Directors of Planning Executive Peer Group (DoPs) and other Executive Peer Groups in the course of designing the Neonatal Phase 2 Programme, including the scope and indicative timescales for the programme, and the request for the resources required to successfully deliver the programme. Members discussed the importance of effective engagement and the need to liaise with Llais early in the process. The proposal to secure additional independent advice and support in respect of the engagement work stream was also supported. The need to reflect issues of equity and diversity in the work was also emphasised. Nicola Prygodzicz agreed to take on the Senior Responsible Officer role for the programme. It was agreed that a Programme Initiation Document would be produced and brought back to the JCC for approval.

Members (1) **Noted** the previous agreement by the then WHSSC Joint Committee to undertake a Phase 2 Transformation Programme for Neonatal Services, (2) **Noted** the pre-planning engagement that had taken place to design the Programme and develop the Case for Change, (3) **Approved** the scope, remit and high-level design of the Programme; and (4) **Approved** the financial resource requirements to support the successful delivery of the Programme.

8. Performance Report:

- **Specialised Services – Feb 2024**
- **EASC Performance (incl Ambulance Service indicators) – March 2024**

The Interim Chief Commissioner introduced the report and set out that the sections of the report reflected the style and content developed in the predecessor bodies. Work would be undertaken with the JCC to determine how the integrated performance report should be developed overtime to reflect the full remit of the JCC.

Members received the report on performance up until 31 March 2024 for the former Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) and the former Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) and noted the additional key performance indicators for 2024/2025 recently introduced by Welsh Government (WG).

Members noted the ambulance performance indicators, the ambulance performance dashboard, the immediate release requests and the Integrated Commissioning Action Plan (ICAP) actions aligned to the goals of the Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care Programme.

Members noted the integrated overview of the performance of specialised services commissioned by the former WHSSC up to the end of February 2024.

Members noted that the NHS Wales Chief Executive had written to all health boards, WAST and Velindre University NHS Trust (VUNT) on 7 May 2024 in relation to Key Performance Indicators and that there was an expectation that all organisations set out a clear improvement trajectory against each to achieve milestones by December 2024, and March 2025.

Members noted that for Ambulance and 111, whilst some improvements were being made, within the ASIs and the Performance Dashboard there were a number of areas of concern regarding response performance and lost hours and the resulting impact on patient care.

Members agreed to develop a revised red performance indicator action plan in conjunction with WAST, and agreed to discuss the ICAP with each HB with a view to focussing on the following priorities

- Flow in hospitals,
- Targeting patients with breathing difficulties and individuals who have fallen to avoid unnecessary hospital attendances and admissions – use Care Homes as a start point,
- Targeting mental health patients to avoid an increase in demand from changes to regulations,
- Understanding the impact and potential of all of the above,
- Collating and sharing best practice; and
- Developing trajectories for approval by the JCC.

Members agreed that a longer term strategy should be the focus for a future JCC development session. It was also agreed that a deep-dive on ambulance services commissioned by the JCC would be undertaken in the July meeting.

Members (1) **Noted** the former EASC performance report and Ambulance Service Indicators (ASI) for month 11 2023/2024, (2) **Noted** the former WHSSC performance report for month 11 2023/2024; and (3) **Noted** the Welsh Government additional targets for 2024/2025.

9. Financial Performance Reports Month 12 – EASC and WHSSC

Members received the financial performance reports for month 12 2023-2024 for EASC and WHSSC for information and completeness.

Members noted the outturn position for both predecessor committee's as being a small overspend for EASC of £0.026m and an underspend for WHSSC of £6.121m as per the anticipated forecasts reported through the committees throughout 2023/24.

In addition, ST briefly updated that for Month 1 of 2024/25, the financial position for the new NWJCC reflected the latest activity information where received (that being month 12 for most provider contracts) or the financial plan position that had been agreed at the previous Joint Committee's. ST highlighted that the team were actively working with provider finance teams to assess the provider proposals against the commissioner funding available, with the aim of approving Heads of Agreement by the 28th June. This is not without risk but ST updated that she will keep the committee sighted as discussions progress.

Members (1) **Noted** the 2023/24 financial year-end position of EASC; and (2) **Noted** the 2023/24 financial year-end position of WHSSC.

10. Gender Identity Services for Children and Young – Final Report of the Cass Review

Members received a report providing an update on the final report on the independent review led by Dr Hilary Cass OBE which was, commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement in 2020 to make recommendations on the services provided to children and young people who were exploring their gender identity or experiencing gender incongruence.

Members noted that the aim of the Cass Review was to ensure that children and young people who were questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria, and who needed support from the NHS, received a high standard of care that met their needs and was safe, holistic and effective. It was noted that services for children and young people are commissioned from providers in England.

Members noted that the JCC commissions CVUHB to provide gender identity services for adults (non-surgical) through the Welsh Gender Service (WGS), and whilst this service is commissioned in Wales, in light of the Cass Review it was proposed that the NHS Wales JCC work with NHS England in the review of the service specification for adult services (non-surgical) rather than a single site approach.

Members discussed the recommendations of the review, and agreed that further information was required and that a further report be brought back to the next meeting.

Members (1) **Noted** the recommendations of the Cass Review and the continued alignment of the NHS Wales Joint JCC with the NHS England Implementation Plan, (2) **Noted** the Cabinet Secretary's direction that the Welsh Gender Service fully co-operates in the delivery of the data linkage study, (3) **Noted** the implications for CAMHS which may require additional resources outside of the commissioned service, (4) **Noted** that the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee had written to Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to set up a working group to consider current training available for gender care. This work will include linking with the work being undertaken by NHS England to ensure consistency of approach and access to training materials.

11. Work Plan and Performance Update for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities

Members received a report highlighting the work to date and outlining the programme of work for 2024/25 for the former National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (NCCU).

Members **noted** the Work Plan / Performance Update for Mental Health & Learning Disabilities previously part of the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit.

12. Corporate Governance Report

Members received a report providing an update on corporate governance matters that had arisen since the previous meeting.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Approved** the JCCs Annual Plan of Committee business for 2024-2025, (3) **Approved** the Annual Governance Statements 2023-2024 for EASC and WHSSC, and the Annual Compliance Statement for the NCCU 2023-2024, (4) **Reviewed** the responses prepared for the EASC and WHSSC Annual Audit Enquiries Letter responses for 2023-2024 and, subject to any required amendment, endorse for onward submission to Audit Wales; and (5) **Noted** the update on the development of the JCC hosting agreement and memorandum of understanding.

13. Other Reports

Members also **noted** update reports from the following joint Sub-committees:

- CTMUHB Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) Assurance Report,
- Management Group Briefing,
- Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel,
- Welsh Kidney Network (WKN),
- South Wales Trauma Network Delivery Assurance Group,
- Neonatal Transport DAG; and
- Emergency Medical Retrieval Transport Service (EMRTS) DAG Action Notes.