



## **CORE BRIEF TO SPECIALISED SERVICES MANAGEMENT GROUP MEMBERS**

### **MEETING HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2024**

This briefing sets out the key areas of discussion and decision. It aims to ensure the Specialised Services Management Group (MG) members have a common core brief to disseminate within their organisation.

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting noting the apologies.

#### **2. Action Log**

Members received an update on progress against the action log and noted the updates. A verbal update was provided on Director appointments and progress with Lay Members recruitment for the remaining two Joint Commissioning Committee members.

#### **3. Project Initiation Document for Adult Endocrinology Specialised Services**

Members received a verbal update and noted that the former NHS Wales Collaborative Executive Group (CEG) commissioned the Regional and Specialised Services Provider Planning Partnership (RSSPPP) to develop a service specification for delivery of specialised endocrinology services across South Wales. Following the service specification and multidisciplinary workshop it was identified further work was required to improve the patient pathway, service provision and the collection and utilisation of data including patient outcomes.

Since specialised endocrinology services are relatively low volume and concentrated in a small number of centres it was recommended that a request be made for the commissioning of specialised endocrinology services for adults be delegated to the JCC. This would also bring the commissioning arrangements for these services into alignment with NHS England.

Members noted that the Project Initiation Document (PID) is in development and this document details the scoping for this project. When finalised, the PID will be circulated to members for information

Members **noted** the verbal update.

#### **4. Specialised Services Performance Report June 2024**

Members received a report providing an integrated overview of the

performance of specialised services commissioned by the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) up to the end of June 2024.

Members noted that at the end of May 2024, there were 7 services in escalation; one less than last month; there was 1 service at Level 1, 3 services at level 2, 3 services at level 3. Members noted updates on performance issues in relation to;

- Cardiac Surgery
- Specialised Cardiology
- Bariatric Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Paediatric Surgery
- Paediatric ICU (PICU) and Neonatal ICU (NICU)
- In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)

Members **noted** the report.

## **7. Financial Performance Report Month 4**

Members received a report providing narrative to the Month 4 position of NWJCC for the 2024/2025 financial year reported against the 2024/25 baselines following approval of the WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) and EASC Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) by their respective Joint Committees of the 7 Health Boards in March 2024.

The MG noted;

- the NWJCC financial position for 2024-2025 reported at Month 4 was a £1.8m overspend against the ICP financial plan to date, with a forecast year-end overspend of £4m,
- The 4 million overspend position was mainly driven by the Transcatheter aortic valve replacements (TAVI) within cardiac surgery. The cardiology fixed costs should hopefully be dealt with when Phase 2 of the cardiac project is progressed.
- The Artificial Limbs and Appliance (ALAS) service is overspent and more information from our Welsh providers has been requested.
- The Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) position at month 4 reports a year to date overspend of £2.580m, with a forecast year end overspend of £4.218m. All approvals are being reviewed in detail every month.
- Mental Health has an underspend of £0.291m, with a forecast year end underspend of £2.698m. The JCC finance team together with the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (NCCU) have challenged costs in relation to enhanced observations from private providers.
- Slippage on development monies has been utilised in the position to date, and this will continue in order to help reduce pressures in established services.
- Work is underway to examine all recent funding releases to identify possible slippage.

- The savings reported to date are less than anticipated. At this stage, £5.5m are categorised as green and amber schemes, with £4.5m categorised as red but the assumption is that they will be achieved in year but a significant amount of work is required and therefore these are a risk. These include:
  - Home Parenteral Nutrition,
  - IPFR approval numbers and value increase,
  - Plastic surgery costs relating to the other patients who are waiting over 104 weeks,
  - Cardiology TAVI costs,
  - Re-banding of technicians within the Welsh Ambulance Service – between 3-4 million,
  - NHS England wage award as at the time of the plan the assumption was that of a 2% increase, but a 5.5% award has been agreed.

Members **noted** the month end financial position.

## **8. JCC Options to Breakeven**

Members received a presentation with the following updates;

- Approved Plan summary and reminder of the figures for both the WHSSC and EASC/NCCU
- Quarter 1 Review 2024/25 – context
- Month 4 Financial Position - Risk and opportunities
- Drivers of overspend – volume vs price increases
- Performance issues- over performance within cardiac surgery and cardiology were not anticipated as part of the planned position
- Ambulance Service and 111
- Route to Breakeven and savings detail including in-year growth mitigations
- Opportunities – work in progress and in-new year service pressures
- Update on Finance Working Group
- Further Principles and choices discussed
- NWJCC Finance Working Group work-plan
- Q3 and Q4 – update and approach
- Value Based Healthcare Approach

A further update will be provided to the JCC at its September 2024 meeting.

Members **noted** the verbal update.

## **Any Other Business (AOB)**

### **• Cardiac Review**

A verbal update on Phase 2 of the Cardiac review project was provided which will deliver demand and capacity planning, informed by a population needs assessment and concluding with an options appraisal that establishes the preferred future service configuration of JCC

commissioned cardiac surgery and TAVI activity, as well as the development of a new cardiac surgery service specification.

- **Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)**

Members noted that a temporary pathway with University College Hospital London (UCHL) working in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board will be opened. The pathway enables the necessary tests prior to surgery and any follow up work to be delivered by staff in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, through their partnership with the Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC). The actual Deep Brain Stimulation surgery will be undertaken in University College Hospital London.

Work to re-open the pathway with North Bristol NHS Trust continues.