



CORE BRIEF TO SPECIALISED SERVICES MANAGEMENT GROUP MEMBERS

MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 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. Stacey Taylor (ST) confirmed her appointment as the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) Deputy Chief Commissioner.

2. Action Log

Members received an update on progress against the action log and noted the updates.

3. Endoscopic Mucosal Resection for Barrett's Oesophagus and Early Oesophageal Cancer – Proposal for Centralised Commissioning

Members received a report scoping the potential benefits and case for transferring the commissioning responsibility for this service from health boards to the JCC. The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) specialised services strategy identified commissioning Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR) for Barrett's as a potential future development in the remit of specialised commissioning. Taking this issue forward is included in the WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) 2024/25 as a deliverable output for the Cancer & Blood commissioning team.

Members discussed transferring commissioning responsibility for EMR for Barrett's Oesophagus from health boards to the JCC in 2025/26 but this was not supported. Members requested further discussions with the NHS Executive and further review of the data before undertaking this transfer. Members agreed to support the JCC in discussions with the NHS Executive.

Members (1) **noted** the information presented in the report including current service provision, the context of the improvement work being undertaken nationally, the challenges and risks in the current arrangements, and advantages expected from centralising commissioning under the JCC; and (2) **did not** support a recommendation for the JCC to agree to transfer commissioning responsibility for EMR for Barrett's

Oesophagus from health boards to the JCC in 2025/26.

4. Joint Commissioning Committee Transfer of Service – Velindre Non-Specialist Services and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Drugs

Members received a report proposing the completion of the transfer of funding from the JCC to Health Boards, in relation to Velindre non-specialist services and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) drugs, as agreed in principle in 2019/20.

The report had been discussed at the Finance Working Group on 16 September 2024. Members were concerned that there remained some points of clarification that required further discussion and requested that the report be taken back to the November Finance Working Group and then brought back to the November Management Group for final approval.

Members (1) **did not agree** the full transfer of funding from JCC back to Health Boards in relation to non-specialist services and NICE drugs spend through Velindre. This includes the full 2023/24 pay award funding related to these areas, as collected from Health Boards through the NWJCC income mechanism, (2) **noted** the historic 15.68% reapportionment of the non-specialist variance is to cease; and (3) **noted** that Health Boards still need to agree a final split in relation to the subsequent rebasing and notify Welsh Government of any allocation adjustment.

5. NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) Risks

Members received a presentation on the TAVI risks and noted the following;

- Context/background
- Cardiac Review Phase 2 – Evidence gathering
- Cardiac Review Phase 2 – Findings
- In-year pressures – Provider positions, CVUHB temporary uplift, Additional considerations, financial implications
- Assessment
- Recommendations

Members provided feedback and the presentation will be updated with additional information and circulated to MG members. Members noted that further discussion would take place at the 12 November 2024 JCC meeting.

Members **noted** the presentation.

6. Artificial Limb and Appliance Service (ALAS) Position

Members received a presentation on the ALAS position which included an overview of the financial drivers of the year to date overspend and the full year forecast overspend. Members noted the drivers such as the growth in wheelchair equipment and power/complex growth. Some short

term and medium to long term options were discussed. Members noted that further discussion would take place at the 12 November 2024 JCC meeting.

Members **noted** the presentation.

7. Specialised Services Performance Report August 2024

Members received a report providing an integrated overview of the performance of specialised services commissioned by the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) up to the end of August 2024.

Members noted that at the end of August 2024, there were 6 services in escalation; one less than last month; there was 1 service at Level 1, 2 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), and
- Neurosurgery.

Members **noted** the report.

7. Financial Performance Report Month 6

Members received a report providing narrative to the Month 6 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 6 was a £3.776m overspend against the ICP financial plan to date, with a forecast year-end overspend of £5.640m,
- The overspend position and the drivers had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- This was currently an unacceptable financial position for the JCC and this will be discussed further at the 12 November 2024 JCC meeting.

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

8. Joint Commissioning Committee Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) Development

Members received a report an update on the progress with developing the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) 2025-28 and immediate next steps.

Members **noted** the report.

9. Policy Group Report

A report providing an update on activity and output from the NWJCC Policy Group during the period 01 July 2024 – 30 September 2024 together with an updated overview of all NWJCC policies and service specifications including those published during the current financial year, together with the rationale for their development was presented.

Members **noted** the report.

10. Any Other Business (AOB)

- **Genomics Testing**

Hannah Roan (HR) raised an issue around a commissioning gap for genomic testing for lymphoma and sarcoma. A number of tests which appear on the test directory were currently not available or commissioned by the All Wales Genomics service. These tests were available in England and they can reduce the chance of misdiagnosis. It was highlighted that these may be coming through as Individual Patient Funding Requests at present. A query was raised over why the All Wales Genomics service was not commissioned to provide these tests. It was agreed that HR would contact ST with the details and the JCC will make further enquiries.

- **Swansea Bay UHB PET Business Case**

Members noted that the business case was approved and an update will be provided to the JCC in November 2024.