



**CYFARFOD BWRDD PRIFYSGOL IECHYD
UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD MEETING**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	26 May 2022
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) Joint Committees and Collaboratives Update Report
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Steve Moore, Chief Executive
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Clare Moorcroft, Committee Services Officer

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas) Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)
Ar Gyfer Trafodaeth/For Discussion

**ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT**

Sefyllfa / Situation

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Board in respect of recent Joint Committee and Collaborative meetings to include the following:

- Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC)
- Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC)
- NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) Committee
- Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care (MWJC)
- NHS Wales Collaborative Leadership Forum (CLF)

Cefndir / Background

The Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) has approved Standing Orders in line with Welsh Government guidance, in relation to the establishment of the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC), Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) Committee. In line with its Standing Orders, these have been established as Joint Committees of HDdUHB, the activities of which require reporting to the Board.

The confirmed and unconfirmed minutes, agendas and additional reports from WHSSC, EASC and NWSSP Committee meetings are available from each Committee's websites via the following links:

[Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee Website](#)
[Emergency Ambulance Services Committee Website](#)
[NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Website](#)

The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative was established in March 2015 following a study of healthcare in Mid Wales commissioned by Welsh Government and undertaken by the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care (WIHSC) (*ref: Mid Wales Healthcare Study, Report for Welsh Government, WIHSC – University of South Wales, September 2014*). In March 2018, the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative transitioned to the [Mid Wales Joint Committee for](#)

[Health and Care](#) whose role will have a strengthened approach to planning and delivery of health and care services across Mid Wales and will support organisations in embedding collaborative working within their planning and implementation arrangements.

The NHS Wales Collaborative Leadership Forum was constituted in December 2016. As the responsible governance group for the NHS Wales Health Collaborative it has been established to agree areas of service delivery where cross-boundary planning and joint solutions are likely to generate system improvement. The forum also considers the best way to take forward any work directly commissioned by Welsh Government from Health Boards and Trusts as a collective; and provides a vehicle for oversight and assurance back to Welsh Government as required. Assurance is given to individual Boards by providing full scrutiny of proposals.

Asesiad / Assessment

The following Joint Committee and Collaborative updates are attached for the Board's consideration:

Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC)

- Briefing notes from the WHSSC meeting held on 10th May 2022, setting out the key areas of discussion.

Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC)

- Summary of key matters considered by EASC and any related decisions made at its meeting held on 15th March 2022.

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) Committee

- Summary of key matters considered by NWSSP and any related decisions made at its meeting held on 24th March 2022.

There are no further Joint Committee or Collaborative updates to include for the following reasons:

Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care (MWJC)

- The MWJC is next due to meet in June and will report to the July 2022 Public Board.

NHS Wales Collaborative Leadership Forum (CLF)

- The CLF is next due to meet in June and will report to the July 2022 Public Board.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive the minutes and updates in respect of recent WHSSC, EASC, NWSSP, MWJC and CLF meetings.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol:
Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:

Not applicable

Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	Governance, Leadership and Accountability
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	All Strategic Objectives are applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	All Planning Objectives Apply
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2018-2019	8. Transform our communities through collaboration with people, communities and partners

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Link to WHSSC Website Link to EASC Website Link to NWSSP Website Link to MWJC Website
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Included within the body of the report
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Cyfarfod Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to University Health Board:	Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee Emergency Ambulance Services Committee NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Committee Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care NHS Wales Collaborative Leadership Forum

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Explicit within the individual Joint Committee and Collaborative reports where appropriate.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Not Applicable
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Not Applicable
Risg: Risk:	The Board has approved Standing Orders in relation to the establishment of WHSSC, EASC and NWSSP Joint Committees, and Terms of Reference for the CLF and MWJC.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	In line with its Standing Orders, the Health Board has established WHSSC, EASC and NWSSP Joint Committees, the activities of which require reporting to the Board.

Enw Da: Reputational:	Not Applicable
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not Applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Not Applicable

WELSH HEALTH SPECIALISED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WHSSC) JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEFING – 10 MAY 2022

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee held its latest public meeting on the 10 May 2022. 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 Welsh Health Specialised Services.

The papers for the meeting can be accessed at:

<https://whssc.nhs.wales/joint-committee/committee-meetings-and-papers/2021-2022-meeting-papers/>

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15 March 2022 were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Action log & matters arising

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

3. Genomics Presentation

Members received an informative presentation on the All Wales Genomics Laboratory and how the Wales Infants and Children's Genome Service (WINGS) had pushed the boundaries of genomic testing in Wales to an unprecedented scale using whole genome sequencing which had the capacity to sequence the entire DNA structure of the human body in a matter of hours.

Members noted the Watson family's patient story (publically available on the BBC website) which shared their first hand experience of using the WINGS, when their baby suffered from breathing difficulties and complications to her nose and airways.

Members **noted** the presentation.

4. Chair's Report

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

- An update on the proposal for an interim Chair of the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel,
- Attendance at the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC) meetings on the 30 March 2022 & 19 April 2022; and
- Attendance at key meetings.

Members **noted** the report.

5. Managing Director's Report

Members received the Managing Director's Report and **noted** the following updates:

- That WHSSC had been successful in publishing an article in the Applied Health Economics and Health Policy Journal on a "A Case Study on Reviewing Specialist Services Commissioning in Wales: TAVI for Severe Aortic Stenosis",
- The first two NRP (Normothermic Regional Perfusion) organ retrievals undertaken by the the Cardiff Transplant Retrieval Service,
- The stakeholder engagement being undertaken on the Genomics Delivery Plan for Wales,
- The positive feedback received following the Extension of the FastTrack Process for Military Personnel; and
- The findings of a review into Molecular Radiotherapy (MRT) to guide development of an all Wales MRT service.

Members **noted** the report.

6. Interim Appointment of Chair for the All Wales IPFR Panel

Members received a report proposing that an Interim Chair is appointed to the Individual Patient Funding Request Panel (IPFR) for a 3 month period to support business continuity and to allow sufficient time to prepare for, and undertake, a recruitment process to appoint a substantive Chair.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Approved** the proposal to appoint an interim Chair to the Individual Patient Funding Request Panel (IPFR) for a 3 month period to support business continuity and to allow sufficient time to recruit a substantive Chair.

7. Neonatal Transport Operational Delivery Network

Members received a report providing an update from the Neonatal Transport Delivery Assurance Group (DAG) established to provide commissioner assurance on the neonatal transport service.

Members (1) **Noted** the information presented within the report; and (2) **Received assurance** that there were robust processes in place to ensure delivery of the neonatal transport services.

8. Draft Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2022-2028

Members received a report presenting the draft Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2022-2028, and seeking endorsement for its circulation through key stakeholder groups for comment.

Members (1) **Noted** the draft Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2022-2028, and provided comments on the document,

(2) **Noted** that the draft Mental Health Specialised Services Strategy for Wales 2022- 2028 would be circulated through a comprehensive stakeholder list in a bilingual format for comment and that the suggested date of between 10 May and 6 June 2022, would be reviewed and extended; and (3) **Noted** that it was anticipated that the final strategy would be published during Winter 2022, and will be brought back to the Joint Committee for approval.

9. Preparedness for the COVID-19 Inquiry

Members received a report providing an update on WHSSC's preparedness for the COVID-19 Public Inquiry.

Members **noted** the report.

10. Disestablishment of the NHS Wales Mental Health and Learning Disability Collaborative Commissioning Group

Members received a report providing a brief overview of the work that had been undertaken by the NHS Wales Mental Health and Learning Disability Collaborative Commissioning Group and which was seeking support to disestablish the advisory group, as there was no longer a requirement for it to be established as a sub group of the Joint Committee.

Members (1) **Noted** the work undertaken by the Joint Committee's sub group the NHS Wales Mental Health and Learning Disability Collaborative Commissioning Group, (2) **Approved** the proposal to disestablish the NHS Wales Mental Health and Learning Disability Collaborative Commissioning Group; and (3) **Noted** that the work of the group had been incorporated into the Inclusion and Corporate Business Division within Social Services in Welsh Government (WG), and that further consideration was required on the system of oversight of health board commissioned LD placements.

11. Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022

Members received the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021-22 for retrospective approval.

Members (1) **Noted** the report, (2) **Noted** that the Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was endorsed at the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC) on 19 April 2022 and the draft was submitted to CTMUHB in readiness for the 29 April 2022 deadline set, (3) **Approved** the WHSSC Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021-2022, (4) **Noted** that the WHSSC Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021-2022 will be included in the CTMUHB Annual report being submitted to Welsh Government and Audit Wales by 15 June 2022, recognising that it had been reviewed and agreed by the relevant sub committees of the Joint Committee; and (5) **Noted** that the final WHSSC Annual Governance Statement (AGS) will be included in the Annual Report presented at the CTMUHB Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 28 July 2022.

12. Sub-Committee Annual Reports 2021-2022

Members received the Sub- Committee Annual Reports for the reporting period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 which set out the activities of each sub-committee during the year and detailing the results of reviews into performance.

Members **noted** the Sub-Committee Annual Reports for 2021-2022.

13. Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

Members received the updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC), the Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC) and the Management Group (MG) for approval.

Members noted that ToR for the sub-committees of the Joint Committee were reviewed on an annual basis in line with Standing Orders and to ensure effective governance.

Members noted that ToR for the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) were approved by the Joint Committee on 18 January 2022, and discussions were ongoing with Welsh Government concerning updating the ToR for the All Wales IPFR panel.

Members (1) **Noted** that the Terms of Reference were discussed and approved at sub-committee meetings on 30 March 2022 and 28 April 2022; and (2) **Approved** the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Integrated Governance Committee (IGC), the Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC) and the Management Group (MG).

14. COVID-19 Period Activity Report for Month 11 2021-2022

Members received a report that highlighted the scale of the decrease in activity levels during the peak COVID-19 period and whether there were any signs of recovery in specialised services activity.

Members (1) **Noted** the report; and (2) **Agreed** to hold an extended session on activity reporting at the next meeting of the Joint Committee in July to scrutinise provider recovery reports.

15. Financial Performance Report – Month 12 2021-2022

Members received the financial performance report setting out the financial position for WHSSC for month 12 2021-2022. The financial position was reported against the 2021-2022 baselines following approval of the 2021-2022 WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Plan (ICP) by the Joint Committee in January 2021.

The financial position reported at Month 12 for WHSSC was a year-end outturn under spend of £13,112k.

Members **noted** the report.

16. Corporate Governance Matters

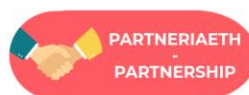
Members received a report providing an update on corporate governance matters that had arisen since the previous meeting.

Members **noted** the report.

17. Other reports

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

- Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)
- Management Group (MG),
- Quality & Patient Safety Committee (QPSC),
- Integrated Governance Committee (IGC),
- All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR)Panel; and
- Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN).





Reporting Committee	Emergency Ambulance Services Committee
Chaired by	Chris Turner
Lead Executive Directors	Health Board Chief Executives
Author and contact details.	Gwenan.roberts@wales.nhs.uk
Date of last meeting	15 March 2022

Summary of key matters including achievements and progress considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.

An electronic link to the papers considered by the EAS Joint Committee is provided via the following link: [March 2022 - Emergency Ambulance Services Committee \(nhs.wales\)](#)
Chris Turner (Chair), welcomed Members to the virtual meeting (using the Microsoft Teams platform) of the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee.

Suzanne Rankin, CEO for Cardiff and Vale and Hayley Thomas, Deputy CEO from Powys were welcomed to her first meeting. Nick Wood, Deputy Chief Executive NHS Wales at Welsh Government was also welcomed to the meeting.

The minutes of the EASC meetings which took place on 18 January 2022 were approved.

The Chair also took opportunity to reaffirm the role of the EAS Committee in terms of its role within the EASC Directions to plan and secure sufficient ambulance services in Wales in line with Welsh Government and NHS Planning Frameworks.

In terms of context for many of the discussions to take place at the meeting, the Chair reminded Members of the agreed deliverables. In particular, the previous agreed commitment to reducing handover delays – no handover delays over 4 hours and reduce the average time of lost hours by 25% from October 2021 level. It was noted that the current position needed to be significantly improved. In addition, Members noted the phasing out of the military support to the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) at the end of March and the likely impact on performance.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Received as the first standing agenda item at each meeting of the EASC Joint Committee as agreed with the Minister for Health and Social Care.

Members noted that the Ambulance Quality Indicators would be published monthly from April 2022 providing an opportunity to discuss more recent information. The following areas were highlighted:

- the continued challenges around 999 call wait times
- the growing gap between the number of calls answered and the number of incidents generated
- slightly less incidents in January and February
- mitigating action taken including investment in staff and technology
- significant challenges in achieving red 65th percentile

- growth in red demand – at 53% response and median 7mins and 30secs; joint work with Welsh Government and Digital Health and Care Wales looking at linked data sets related to patient outcomes and would report findings at a future meeting
- amber responsiveness 95th percentile continued to grow with significant waits seen; Amber median 1hour 30mins (ongoing impact on patient journey)
- More media stories and political interest being seen
- in light of previous commitments to reduce ambulance handover delays, increases over recent months were noted, with the trend continuing into March (currently 700 hours per day)
- with reducing staffing capacity, WAST forecasting the impact and the level of the Clinical Safety Plan to ensure response at red and amber 1.

Nick Wood asked regarding the EASC perspective and the need for a joint response from WAST and health boards in relation to the safety of the service and meeting community expectations; the impact of the significant drift in lost hours, the deterioration in response rates, the increasing numbers of concerns and increasing numbers of serious adverse incidents. Members were asked if they were confident that their actions would mitigate against the identified risks and would lead to improvements in performance and reduce patient safety incidents.

Members felt this was a fair challenge although there were expectations that the actions identified in the health board plans would lead to improvements in reducing lost hours and a consequence improvement in working towards meeting the performance targets. The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner (CASC) agreed that the Committee was not in a position to provide the level of assurance needed due to the position with handover delays. The Joint Committee had not been complacent and Members were aware that the planning assumptions had assumed a maximum of 5,000 handover hours in one month. Once these levels had been overtaken a number of mitigating actions had been put in place which included the WAST Clinical Safety Plan. At 20,000 lost hours per month Members were aware that ambulances would not be sent for Amber 2 patients.

Suggested solutions were proposed including to:

- provide temporary additional front-line ambulance capacity into WAST to support the system over the coming months to mitigate the removal of the support from the military and until the required improvements are in place to handover delays and impacting across the system
- continue to work with health boards to understand the variation across the system identified within the action plans submitted and to identify and share best practice
- ensure that the handover improvement plans deliver the required gains, to be monitored by the governance arrangements including the Commissioning Framework
- constantly challenge the current culture where handover delays are tolerated.

It was proposed that the following actions were put in place as the key elements of the system-wide handover improvement plan to address the patient safety concerns, particularly with the withdrawal of support from the military in April:

- maximise temporary additional front-line ambulance capacity during the coming period including overtime and WAST to operate at a higher state of emergency alert to maximise front-line resource
- use of the agreed whole system escalation process and the actions taken

- re-focus on 'red release' to allow WAST to respond appropriately and promptly (had been slippage)
- health board resources in place such as same day emergency care, urgent primary care centres, flow centres or communication hub etc and identify two or three deliverables as part of this Handover Improvement Plan. This would include managing or challenging slippage and monitoring the impact on the patient experience and recognised the need to move at pace.

The Chair thanked Members for the helpful discussion and emphasised the requirement for all Committee Members to respond urgently to the current position related to handover delays and to work with WAST to mitigate the impact of the loss of military resource at the end of March. The suggestions set out by the CASC were accepted and the Chair articulated the hope to see an improved position at the next meeting.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the content of the report and additional actions that would be taken to improve performance delivery to be included in the EASC Action Plan.
- **AGREE** to include the units of hours produced to the next iteration of the Performance Report.

PROVIDER ISSUES

Jason Killens, Chief Executive at the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) gave an overview of key matters including:

- phased withdrawal of the military support of approximately 250 staff (reduction in capacity of approximately 15% of production) by 31 March 2022
- approximately 100 members of staff were currently in operational training and would become operational in quarter 1, the capacity of the Clinical Service Desk would be doubled early in quarter 1 and this would allow the volume of calls closed via the 'consult and close' process to lift from 10-12% to approximately 15%
- the additional offer to roll on some winter schemes including cohorting and third-party support should the required support and funding be available (non core activities)
- red performance remained below target although an improving picture since December. A deep dive has been undertaken into red performance which was currently being finalised and would be presented to the EASC Management Group
- There were 503 long patient waits in January, this was a reduction compared to December, but rates were still very high with patients waiting excessively long times for services (some waiting more than 24 hours)
- the daily average handover position for the 10 services in England was shared, with WAST performance the worst, particularly in terms of the comparative fleet size
- electronic patient case card – this would be live in all health board areas by the end of March 2022, with many suggestions for improvements for phase 2 of the work
- the detailed briefing issued last week regarding roster changes had been extremely helpful in addressing the significant local, regional and national political interest. It was important for all to portray the positive story, (70 FTE additional staff) information would be circulated more widely to illustrate local level impacts including that 34.5 additional emergency ambulances would be operational across Wales as a result of this work. This would impact in Quarter 3 2022-23

- high sickness levels and the work being undertaken to achieve the trajectory to return to pre-pandemic levels of 6.5%. It was acknowledged that current levels were far too high and that there would be a plan to reduce these in the next few months.

The CASC emphasised the current focus in terms of:

- Being clear what could be delivered on a quarter by quarter basis
- Encourage health boards to include gaps within plans to identify key requirements
- Commissioning Framework to include detail in terms of what was required.

The Chair invited the CASC to outline other requirements for WAST which included:

- reducing sickness and setting the required improvement trajectory
- agreeing timescales for reducing post-production lost hours and managing the inefficiency in the system
- ensuring all roster changes would be in place by end of November 2022
- reducing the variation within the service by adopting good operational practice on a day by day basis.

The Chair asked Members to actively support the roster review changes and recommended the use of the detailed briefing which had recently been shared. This was cited as an example of good practice which could be replicated for other areas of work.

WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES NHS TRUST DRAFT INTEGRATED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (WAST IMTP) UPDATE

The WAST IMTP report was received. In presenting the report, Rachel Marsh highlighted the executive summary and key elements of the Plan including progress made in terms of:

- Progress to recruit the additional 127 full time equivalent (FTE) staff as agreed following the Emergency Medical Services Demand and Capacity Review
- doubling the capacity of the Clinical Support Desk
- introducing mental health practitioners to the organisation
- completing the roll-out of NHS Wales 111 with the programme team
- completing the transfers of Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS) from health boards.

Opportunities for joint working with academic institutions were noted and further discussions would be held outside of the meeting to consider opportunities across the system including joint appointments. The ongoing dialogue had continued between WAST and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) was noted along with WASTs ambitions to pursue University Trust status.

The CASC highlighted the consistency between the WAST IMTP, the agreed Commissioning Intentions (CIs) and Welsh Government targets.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- **SUPPORT** the WAST IMTP, noting the risks and financial information to be worked through and mitigated,
- The Chair and the CASC to subsequently endorse the final plan in line with the discussions at the meeting following WAST Board approval and prior to submission to the Welsh Government by the 31 March 2022.

EASC INTEGRATED MEDIUM TERM PLAN

The EASC IMTP was received. In presenting the report, Ross Whitehead highlighted that the EASC IMTP was consistent with principles presented at the Joint Committee meeting in January 2022 and had been presented at the recent EASC Management Group for endorsement.

The plan focused on Commissioning Intentions (CIs) along with other priority areas for 2022-23 and the three-year planning cycle included the appetite for the commissioning of 111 Services and the development of a National Transfer and Discharge Service reflecting the regionalisation and reconfiguration of services.

The CASC highlighted to Members the key inefficiencies in the system which included:

- Handover delays - It was suggested that the required system improvements that would reduce ambulance handover delays sufficiently would not be in place for some time and that it would be sensible to retain front line ambulance resource for the start of the 2022-23 financial year to manage the clinical risk and patient safety concerns that exist, until wider system improvements could be made.
- WAST financial plan included a £1.8m cost reduction plan to impact on front line costs which would reduce overtime and hold vacancies - it was suggested that this £1.8m be waived due to the current issues related to handover hours and the loss of the military personnel on a 'non-recurrent basis'. The proposal for the temporary resource recognised both the need for action across the system but also the length of time that it was anticipated that required improvements would take place.

Nick Wood asked the CASC to confirm the detail in the financial year 2022-23 which related to the assumptions of a non-recurrent bid to the Welsh Government 6 Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care funding (£25m). Stephen Harrhy confirmed that the assumption within the financial plan was a minimum of £750k but possibly would require some additionality in terms of coverage for the ECNS scheme. Nick Wood noted this and explained that this was under discussion by the Welsh Government Policy Lead officials who were considering the allocation. Stephen Harrhy explained that this had been the approach suggested by health boards to apply for specific urgent and emergency care funding from the £25m which was reflected in the plan. Nick Wood thanked Stephen Harrhy for the clarification.

Members questioned the level of the CIP (1% would have been 2% if the £1.8m was included) and the CASC explained the WAST had also been asked not to make assumptions regarding their Transition Plan within the IMTP as this had not been widely supported at the scrutiny session. The option related to the WAST CIP which included the £1.8 million from front line staff remained contentious but the CASC suggested that the increasing concerns related to patient safety and the likelihood of harm within the current system this was an option to try and get to a balanced financial plan for WAST. Members confirmed that the financial envelope had been agreed by the Directors of Finance but questioned whether the CIP needed to be made from savings around front line staff, i.e. were there other options. Members explained that much higher levels of CIP had been agreed within health boards and felt that WAST should not be subject to different efficiency measures.

Members were keen that the CIP was revisited to be in line with health boards across Wales. The CASC responded and suggested that if additional funding, albeit on a temporary basis, was not provided to WAST the performance would deteriorate further and this would increase risks in terms of patient safety and experience. Stephen Harray suggested that if handover delays were reduced to 15,000 hours by April (which seemed unlikely) there remained a need for temporary funding for WAST. Furthermore, the CASC explained that without the temporary funding information would need to be provided to explain exactly what services could be offered by WAST.

Members suggested that they required more financial detail to discuss within health boards which would need to be balanced against other priority areas. Members felt they would need more granularity in relation to the ambulance services to balance for the wider health of local populations in decisions made by health boards.

Stephen Harray agreed to write to Members to explain clearly how the options and opportunities on a Health Board by Health Board basis. This information could be presented in different ways including having a 2% CIP and a non-recurrent allocation of £1.8m. The implications of all options would be clarified although the CASC felt it was essential that WAST have additional funding due to the level of inefficiency within the system at present. Members agreed to the need for additional non-recurrent funding to ensure additional front-line ambulance capacity however more detail would need to be provided, as requested.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the process of engagement undertaken in the development of the EASC Integrated Medium Term Plan
- **APPROVE** the EASC Integrated Medium Term Plan (2022-25) for submission to Welsh Government
- Receive information on a health board by health board basis in terms of the WAST CIP and additional temporary funding

CHIEF AMBULANCE SERVICES COMMISSIONER'S (CASC) REPORT

Stephen Harray presented the report and highlighted the following:

- Non Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS)

Members noted that detailed work was now being undertaken on NEPTS and the impact of health boards reset and reconfiguration on different elements of NEPTS activity, for example reduced outpatient journeys and an increase in demand for transfers and discharge. A 'Focus on' session will be held at the next EASC meeting exploring this on a health board by health board basis.

- EASC Action Plan

It was reported that the Minister had requested that the EASC Action Plan be updated to incorporate the expected impact of the actions being taken across the system. The latest version had been appended to the CASC report, this would now be updated.

- System Wide Escalation

Members noted that a conversation had been held at the recent NHS Wales Leadership regarding the final version of the System Escalation Plan. Members noted that the final version would be endorsed at the next meeting of the Leadership Board and implemented in April 2022.

Members **RESOLVED** to: **NOTE** the report

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK

The EMS Commissioning Framework report was received. Ross Whitehead presented the report and noted previous discussions at EASC Management Group and the recent scrutiny panel on the WAST Transition Plan held with health board representatives.

Members noted that it had become clear from these recent discussions that health boards expected clarity on the commissioning of core ambulance service provision, separately from the transformation elements. This approach would provide health boards with the required clarity on how framework resources were being utilised to deliver the priorities of the Committee and would allow the development of different and transformational service offers within each health board areas to address the needs of their populations. Members were also reminded that the framework was a live document that would be refreshed every 6 months, responding to developments within the service.

Following discussion Members **RESOLVED** to:

- **APPROVE** the development of a framework that distinguishes between core service provision and transformational services
- **APPROVE** the extension of the interim arrangements until the May Committee meeting.

FOCUS ON SESSION – HEALTHCARE INSPECTORATE WALES (HIW) - REVIEW OF PATIENT SAFETY, PRIVACY, DIGNITY AND EXPERIENCE WHILST WAITING IN AMBULANCES DURING DELAYED HANDOVER

The HIW review was received. Ross Whitehead presented the session and Members noted that many elements of this 'Focus On' agenda item had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Members noted that the HIW report focusing on ambulance handover delays had already been considered at many health board sub committees. Twenty recommendations had been made which required a system wide response and it was confirmed that the action plan had been accepted by HIW. The EASC Management Group (EASC MG) agreed to establish a task and finish group to deliver the recommendations. Draft terms of reference had been circulated to EASC MG members with dates of the first two meetings and a request for clinical and operational representatives from each health board. It was agreed that regular updates on this work would be provided at future meetings of the Committee and the EASC Team would work closely with HIW on this matter. The first meeting would take place in early April and had been planned for 6 months in the first instance.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- **RECEIVE** the HIW Review and responses to the recommendations
- **NOTE** the establishment of a task and finish group to focus on delivery of the recommendations via the EASC Management Group.

FINANCE REPORT

The EASC Finance Report was received. Stuart Davies presented the report and highlighted no significant changes and forecast end of year position of a £383k underspend. No significant movements were anticipated.

Members **RESOLVED** to: **NOTE** the report.

EASC SUB GROUPS

The confirmed minutes from the following EASC sub-groups were received and **APPROVED**:

- EASC Management Group – 21 Oct 2021
- NEPTS Delivery Assurance Group – 12 Oct 2021
- NEPTS Delivery Assurance Group – 30 Nov 2021

EASC GOVERNANCE INCLUDING THE RISK REGISTER

The report on EASC Governance was received.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- **APPROVE** the risk register including 2 new risks and the three red risks which were also being reported to the CTMUHB Audit and Risk Committee
- **APPROVE** the Model Standing Financial Instructions
- **APPROVE** the final information for the model Standing Orders namely the Delegation of Powers and Scheme of Delegation
- **NOTE** and **APPROVE** the Draft Annual Business plan
- **NOTE** the updates relating to red performance and the additional new risks
- **NOTE** the progress with the actions to complete the EASC Standing Orders and the aim to complete all actions by the next meeting
- **NOTE** the Internal Audit on EASC Governance and the plans to track the recommendations.

Key risks and issues/matters of concern and any mitigating actions

- Red and amber performance
- Handover delays
- Withdrawal of support from the military to WAST
- Continuing impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic

Matters requiring Board level consideration and/or approval

- Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions would be forwarded as soon as documentation finalised

Forward Work Programme

Considered and agreed by the Committee.

Committee minutes submitted	Yes	√	No	
Date of next meeting	10 May 2022			

ASSURANCE REPORT

NHS WALES SHARED SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Reporting Committee	Shared Service Partnership Committee
Chaired by	Tracy Myhill, NWSSP Chair
Lead Executive	Neil Frow, Managing Director, NWSSP
Author and contact details.	Peter Stephenson, Head of Finance and Business Development
Date of meeting	24 March 2022
Summary of key matters including achievements and progress considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.	
<u>Recruitment Modernisation Programme</u>	
<p>The Director of People and Organisational Development and the Deputy Director of Employment Services gave a detailed presentation of the work being undertaken in Recruitment to support the significant increase in activity since the start of the pandemic. Looking back to when NWSSP was first established in 2011, significant progress has been made in streamlining the recruitment process, demonstrated by a reduction in the average time-to-hire from 132 to 71 days. New services have been taken on and the Welsh Language functionality has been enhanced. Last summer, further initiatives were progressed relating to the Workforce Directors' Responsiveness Programme including enhancements to TRAC, development of the applicant web page, and maintaining virtual pre-employment checks.</p> <p>During late summer 2021, the service was faced with unprecedented and unplanned levels of recruitment across NHS Wales due to the Covid response, resulting in the usual high level of compliance with KPI targets not being sustained. This led to the need to review the way in which recruitment is undertaken in Wales and where applicable modernise the service further through changes to processes, technology, and education.</p> <p>The Deputy Director provided details of specific initiatives under each of the headings of process, technology, and education. One key technological initiative is investment in pre-employment check software that enables identification documents to be held in ESR and viewed via the ESR app. This has been promoted by the Home Office, however the technology is not currently available, but it will be fundamental to virtual pre-employment checks continuing after the current proposed Home Office end-date of September 2022. Due to the short notice provided by the Home Office over this software, funding to purchase it still needs to be confirmed.</p>	

The Modernisation Action Plan is to be taken to the All-Wales Workforce and OD peer group meeting in early April, with a formal update to the May Committee.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

Chair's Report

The Chair updated the Committee on the activities that she had been involved with since the January meeting. This included chairing her first Welsh Risk Pool Committee which had been very informative; attending the Hywel Dda Sustainability Committee; and also attending the NHS Wales Chairs' meeting which allowed her to keep updated on the latest developments and issues. Going forward there will be a number of attendances at board meetings, starting with Digital Health Care Wales and then Health Education and Improvement Wales. The Chair is keen that these are not used solely for NWSSP to update on performance, but to elicit a two-way exchange of ideas and information.

Managing Director Update

The Managing Director presented his report, which included the following updates on key issues:

- The IMTP has now been formally submitted to Welsh Government for their consideration;
- As part of a UK-wide response to the war in Ukraine, Welsh Government asked NWSSP to identify any surplus equipment and consumables that could be donated to Ukraine. Review of current stocks identified items to the value of £524k that could be donated as they are surplus to current requirements (PPE, ventilators, and medical consumables). Thus far, over £131k of surplus items has already been sent to Ukraine from NWSSP;
- The purchase of Matrix House in Swansea was completed by the end of March. The building is currently 75% occupied by NHS Wales, with Public Health Wales and the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust as tenants in addition to NWSSP. Acquisition of this asset will lead to a reduction in future revenue costs to NHS Wales and the opportunity to create a wider public sector hub at some point; and
- The Minister for Health and Social Care visited our Imperial Park 5 Warehouse on 17th March, providing an opportunity to demonstrate to her the extensive range of services that now operate from this facility.

Items Requiring SSPC Approval/Endorsement

Lease Car Salary Sacrifice

In July 2021, the Committee agreed to reduce the CO2 emissions for Salary Sacrifice vehicles through the NHS Fleet scheme. Whilst the intentions of this decision were well founded, the implementation of the first phase from 120g/km to 100g/km has generated the following issues:

- Those staff who do not have driveways and therefore home charging facilities, are either unable to participate in the scheme or have a very limited choice of cars;
- Only certain EV and hybrid cars meet the lower CO2 limits – therefore a large number of small fuel-efficient cars e.g. 1 litre VW Polo, Ford Ka etc are no longer available to staff. This is particularly problematic to those staff who live in the more rural areas

In view of the above it is evident that some staff are opting not to apply for salary sacrifice cars but instead are continuing to use their private cars, commonly referred to as the 'grey fleet'. These cars are generally older and emit more pollution than the vehicles that were previously available on the lease car salary sacrifice scheme.

In view of this, it was proposed to reinstate the 120g/km cap for petrol and hybrid vehicles from 1st April 2022 but not to allow diesel vehicles to be ordered. The impact of this will be to increase the range of vehicles available, remove new diesel vehicles from the Scheme and provide greater access to those staff who do not possess home charging facilities.

It was also noted that NWSSP do not administer this Service to all Health Boards and Trusts, and it was agreed that the provision of the administration of service to an all-Wales service should be explored

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed:

- Adjustment in the CO2 emissions;
- Removal of the ability to order new diesel cars on the scheme

Items For Noting

Energy Update

The Committee received a paper relating to the current situation with energy prices. Due to the nature of the markets and high expenditure, the Energy Price Risk Management Group (EPRMG) was formed in 2005 to manage exposure to risk across the NHS Wales energy contracts. The overarching aim of the group is to minimise the impact of energy price rises through proactive management and forward buying.

There have been very significant increases in gas and electricity prices during the year, particularly during recent weeks following the outbreak of the Ukraine war. The EPRMG strategy of purchasing ahead has meant that NHS Wales has benefitted substantially and avoided most of the price increases for gas and electric supply. Whilst this strategy has protected NHS Wales from the huge increase in market prices for 2021/22 it is likely that there will be very significant hikes in energy costs in 2022/23 because of the current contracts coming to an end.

The recent increase in energy costs is very unwelcome, but is unavoidable given the current war in Ukraine, the sanctions applied to Russia and the removal of Russian Gas and Oil from supplying the global market. However, the EPMRG will attempt to manage the energy costs for NHS Wales as best as we can over the year ahead.

The Committee **NOTED** the paper.

Finance, Performance, People, Programme and Governance Updates

Finance – The Director of Finance & Corporate Services reported that NWSSP was on track to meet each of its revenue financial targets for 2021/22 and the projected outturn on the Welsh Risk Pool was in line with the Integrated Medium-Term Plan. Additional capital funding had been received in quarters three and four, but plans were in place to ensure the funding was fully utilised by the end of the financial year.

Performance – Most KPIs are on track except for those relating to Recruitment Services which was the subject of the deep dive earlier in the agenda. The move towards qualitative output focused measures continues within NWSSP.

People & OD Update – Sickness absence rates remain at very low levels with an absence rate of 2.93% for the last quarter. Performance and Development Reviews and Statutory and Mandatory training results continue to improve although there is still room for further improvement. Headcount is increasing due mainly to the additional staff recruited as part of the Single Lead Employer Scheme. The ESR database has been modified such that most of the facilities it provides can be accessed and delivered in Welsh

Corporate Risk Register – there are two red risks. The first relates to the pressures currently being noted within the Employment Services Directorate, and particularly in Recruitment and Payroll Services, which was the subject of the earlier deep dive. The second refers to the energy price increases which again was the subject of an earlier agenda item.

Papers for Information

The following items were provided for information only:

- PMO Highlight Report
- Audit Committee Highlight Report
- Quality and Safety Assurance Report
- 2022/23 Forward Plan
- Finance Monitoring Returns (Months 10 and 11)

AOB

N/a

Matters requiring Board/Committee level consideration and/or approval

- The Board is asked to **NOTE** the work of the Shared Services Partnership Committee.

Matters referred to other Committees	
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N/A	
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Date of next meeting	19 May 2022
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