GIG CYMRU NHS WALES | Cyd-bwyllgor Comisiynu Joint Commissioning Committee

Joint Commissioning Committee

Highlight Report from the Hosted Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee

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	Not Applicable
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Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Noting

Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	**Date**	**Outcome**
N/A		Noted

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared to provide Health Board (HB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Members of the Joint Commissioning Committee (JC) with a summary of the key issues considered by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board's Hosted Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (the Committee) at its public meeting on 3rd November 2026.

Key highlights from the meeting are reported in Section 2.

2. HIGHLIGHT REPORT

(Reports shared with the Committee can be found here).

- **NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) Strategic Update:** The Committee received an overview of current strategic service issues, including the Welsh Gender Service clinical review, restored Welsh Fertility Institute services, mental health escalations, and the ongoing neonatal service review.
    - **Welsh Gender Service:** It was noted that the Welsh Gender Service remained in escalation and with the surgical pathway subject to an independent clinical review. The pause on surgical referrals had commenced, and the first patient cohort was being assessed. Further conclusions would follow the review through the Joint Committee and its Quality, Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee.
    - **Welsh Fertility Institute:** The Committee acknowledged that a temporary pause in Welsh Fertility Institute services had occurred during the absence of the regulatory responsible person for the service. Services had returned to normal following that person's phased return. The NWJCC reported continued monitoring of operational and financial sustainability of the service.
    - **Neonatal Review:** It was confirmed that the NWJCC's neonatal service review was underway. It was reported that progress had been impacted by difficulties gathering data for demand and capacity analysis, albeit officers continued to develop proposals for consideration which would align with the All-Wales Maternity Review.

- **Risk Management and Assurance Framework:** The Committee received the first iteration of the NWJCC's Joint Committee Assurance Framework report. Assurance was taken from the progress made within the NWJCC's Risk Management processes however, the Committee requested that consideration be given to whether the high consequence scoring remained appropriate for all Strategic Risks. The Committee heard that the Joint Committee had approved and would continue to review Strategic Risks and their scoring.
    - **Risk Register Updates:** An operational update was shared regarding the NWJCC Organisational Risk Register, the Committee noting that two new organisational risks had been added concerning commissioning of the Welsh Gender Service and the quality, safety, and patient outcomes associated with the paused surgical pathway. A paediatric neurology risk had also been escalated, while the renal dialysis capacity risk had reduced from 16 to 12 after additional capacity was secured in southwest Wales.
    - **Financial Risks:** Given the projected year-end financial performance position it was reported that consideration would be given to the re-drafting of the financial organisational risk to reflect the mitigated in-year financial risk. Whilst in year risk continued to be mitigated it was recognised that broader strategic financial sustainability risks would

remain whilst longer-term recurrent savings were identified across all portfolios.
    - **Joint Committee Assurance Framework (JAF) Development:** The JAF report was described as a point-in-time update that would continue to develop as the organisations approach to risk continued to mature. It was noted that an internal audit review of risk management was expected during quarter 3 which would support the continued development of the NWJCC's risk management processes.

- **NWJCC Audit Tracker:** NWJCC colleagues updated the committee on the Internal Audit recommendation tracker.
    - **Audit Tracker Status:** The Committee acknowledged that all financial audit recommendations had been actioned and closed, however progress on Traumatic Stress Wales recommendations had been delayed due to ongoing staff transfer complexities.
    - **Traumatic Stress Wales:** NWJCC colleagues confirmed that the TUPE transfer to Public Health Wales had completed successfully following coordination with Public Health Wales and support from Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB. Residual work included transferring resources from the NWJCC Office site, completing a budget transfer in month seven, and transferring the service website. The related audit actions were treated as closed and would be reflected in the next report. Details of the recommendations would be shared with Public Health Wales for information.
    - **High-Cost Drugs:** Updates against four recommendations were reported from the high-cost-drugs audit, it was noted that one recommendation for the development of a BlueTeq standard operating procedure had been completed and approved by the Quality, Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee, while the remaining three actions were due in December and were progressing.

- **Right Care Right Person Programme:** The Committee received an update on the results and next steps of the Right Care, Right Person test of change and the role of health boards in arranging conveyance after section 136 assessments.
    - **Evaluation And Scale-Up:** It was noted that the programme evaluation report was still awaited, although early indications showed reduced police conveyancing during the pilot with no serious incidents reported. The learning, potential national scale-up, and any required investment would be discussed through the Right Care, Right Person Improvement Project and forthcoming Welsh Government meetings.

- **Ambulance Commissioning Assurance:** NWJCC Officers outlined strengthened NWJCC commissioning governance with the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST).
    - **Governance Arrangements:** It was reported that the NWJCC had established multiple commissioning-assurance layers, strengthened

the Executive-to-Executive interface, and introduced regular meetings with health boards to understand local issues and feed them into discussions with WAST. A Provider Performance Assurance Group was monitoring performance and improvement for Emergency Ambulance Services (EAS), NHS 111, and Non-Emergency Ambulance Services (NETPS).

- **Seasonal Oversight:** The NWJCC reported that it was intensifying assurance during periods of pressure. From the following week, it planned weekly meetings with WAST covering preparation for the week ahead and learning from the previous week.
- **Additional Assurance:** Whilst the Committee acknowledged that the update had explained the assurance layers, further detail was requested to set out how the commissioned services operated and performance was assessed, including the transition of NHS 111 to WAST. It was confirmed that the NWJCC Ambulance Services strategic review would produce new specifications for WAST commissioned services, defining expected delivery and reporting requirements and underpinning future contracts.
  Assurance was requested on contracts, performance and remedial action, rather than internal processes alone and it was agreed that a future update would be shared setting out the Commissioning for Value framework and measures following consultation on service specifications. To address potential duplication with NWJCC Quality and Safety Committee reporting, it was agreed that Independent Members would engage offline to assess what level of assurance was required from the Committee. This detail would be shared with NWJCC colleagues in advance of the next meeting.

- **Financial Control Procedure:** The Committee approved the NWJCC Budgetary Control Financial Control Procedure.
- **Internal Audit Update:** Internal Audit colleagues reported progress on the NWJCC internal audit programme, including a reasonable-assurance review of the commissioned-services escalation framework that identified three medium-priority findings requiring stronger awareness, timeliness, and risk-management controls.

3. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)	Maximise Value
	Ensure Quality; Reduce Duplication; Improve Equity & Population Health; Facilitate Integration
Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals	A Resilient Wales
	A Healthier Wales

150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)	
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd (Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / **Link to Enablers of Quality** (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Leadership
	Culture and Valuing People; Learning, Improvement and Research; Whole-systems Perspective
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd (Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / **Link to Domains of Quality** (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Effective
	Efficient; Equitable; Person-centred; Timely; Safe
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	No - Not Applicable

Impact Assessment		
Ansawdd *Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /* **Quality** *Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?*	Yes: ☐	No: ☒
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below: This is a summary of the latest Committee meeting for the JCC
Cydraddoldeb *Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /* **Equality** *Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?*	Yes: ☒	No: ☒
	Outcome for Equality (delete as appropriate): ~~POSITIVE~~/NEUTRAL/~~NEGATIVE~~ Outcome for Welsh Language (delete as appropriate): ~~POSITIVE~~/NEUTRAL/~~NEGATIVE~~	If no, please include rationale below: This is a summary of the latest Committee meeting for the JCC
Cyfreithiol / Legal	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
Enw da / Reputational	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
Effaith Adnoddau *(Pobl /Ariannol) /* **Resource Impact** *(People / Financial)*	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health Board is asked to:

- **Note** the highlights outlined in Section 2 of this report.