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| <b>Reporting Committee</b>     | <b>Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)</b>           |
| <b>Chaired by</b>              | <b>Chair, Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)</b>    |
| <b>Lead Executive Director</b> | <b>Director of Planning and Performance</b> |
| <b>Date of last meeting</b>    | <b>22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024</b>           |

**Summary of key matters considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.**

This report provides assurance to the Joint Committee in accordance with the WKN Terms of Reference (ToR) which state that the Chair of the Welsh Kidney Network (the 'WKN') will provide reports to the Joint Committee following WKN meetings outlining the activities of the Network and bring attention to any significant matters under consideration by the Network. Minutes are available on request from the WKN Coordinator, [Jonathan.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk).

**1. STRATEGIC NETWORK ISSUES**

**1.1 Dialysis Unit Expansion – South West Wales:**

During the April meeting of the WKN Board, an update was provided on the 2 new Dialysis Units within the South West Region:

- **Bridgend** – Planning permission has been approved for a 21 station unit, within Brackla, Bridgend. Construction work has started with an estimated date of opening of November 2024.
- **Neath Port Talbot** – Pre-planning application has been submitted and a full planning application is in preparation for submission by end of April 2024 for a 27 station unit. There have been some delays to the programme due to the previously identified site being deemed unsuitable. The estimated date of opening is mid-2025.

**1.2 Value in Healthcare**

A meeting was held in December 2023 with the Welsh Value in Health Team and Welsh Government, where updates were submitted from all regions detailing baseline positions and anticipated impact as a result of the £446k investment from the Value in Health team to the Network. Whilst formal notification of the recurring position of the funding remains awaited, discussions were positive, and the Network anticipates a positive outcome.

**1.3 Financial Strategy:**

There is an anticipated shortfall of £0.87m for Renal Services in 2024-2025 due to price increases and ongoing growth in dialysis. A series of meetings will be held with the regions to scope efficiency schemes to bridge the anticipated funding gap. These will include a review of NHS England SLAs and a number of

Medicines Management schemes. An update will be brought back to the May Network Board.

#### **1.4 Clinical Leadership:**

The clinical leadership team has one vacancy for Home Dialysis, with two further roles (Transplant & Vascular Access, and ICT), reaching their end of tenure on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024. Recruitment for these posts will progress as usual via expressions of interest from within the clinical community.

## **2. ISSUES REPORTED FROM REGIONS**

### **2.1 South East Wales Region**

- Additional Nephrology sessions have been secured in Aneurin Bevan UHB.
- The requirement for additional dialysis capacity continues to place pressure within the service.
- Access to General Anaesthetic lists may have an impact on increasing transplantation and home dialysis. The renal service is currently working with other directorates to find a solution this will also include cardiac investigations ahead of transplant workups.
- There are pressures within the Consultant Medical workforce, however these are being mitigated by recruitment and job planning.
- Workforce - key appointments made for both a youth worker and a pre-habilitation co-ordinator

### **2.2 South West Wales Region**

- An update was provided on the dialysis unit expansion programme as outlined above.
- There has been no movement on the business proposal for an Interventional Nephrologist, with a Health Board decision awaited. Fortnightly meetings are being held within Swansea Bay and Cardiff & Vale UHBs.
- There are transport issues with Aberystwyth Dialysis Unit resulting in an inability to support the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday model. Discussions are on-going.
- Nursing levels have improved, the re-introduction of the renal rotation programme has aided this position.
- Workforce - youth worker appointment has been made, ICT post is vacant awaiting outcome of funding discussions within WKN.

### **2.3 North Wales Region**

- Work is ongoing to align the two data sources that capture renal activity which will increase data accuracy and reporting. Capacity remains an issue across North Wales, an option appraisal meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May to work through solutions, with a particular focus on Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.
- The Home Dialysis Nursing team in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB has been congratulated for becoming Finalists in the Welsh Government St David's Award for their collaborative work with Ynys Mon County Council on creating a social housing pathway for renal patients choosing home dialysis.

### 3. Quality and Patient Safety

The Board received the risk register, noting that there are currently 15 active risks. 5 of these score 15 or above and therefore remain on the CRAF.

- WKN 06 Renal Funding (16),
- WKN 08 Limited outpatient dialysis capacity in Swansea (16),
- WKN 15 Lack of Interventional Radiology in Swansea Bay UHB (16),
- WKN 18 Renal Capacity across Wales (16).
- Increase risk WKN (Team) 01 Team capacity increase to 16.

There were no new or reduced risks within the period.

A number of other reports were discussed and recorded within this section of the meeting:

- Two position statements were considered at Board in response to 'Right person, Right Care' guidance document from the College of Policing and Use of Patient Walking Aids on Non-Emergency Patient Transport.
- A draft matrix on Quality Measures of Care with the intention to create an electronic dashboard of the audit measures.
- Agreement that the next WKN QPS meeting will consider the UK Kidney Association (UKKA) Patient Recorded Experience Measures (PREMS) and disparity reports looking at inequality of access to kidney transplant waiting lists and age disparity of those patients having renal replacement therapy (RRT).

### 4. Highlight Reports

The following highlight reports were received at the Network Board meeting:

- Kidney Care UK Highlight Report
- Kidney Wales Highlight Report
- Clinical Information Lead Highlight Report
- Lead Nurse Work Programme update
- Workforce Audit update
- SBUHB Highlight Report
- BCUHB Highlight Report
- CVUHB Highlight Report
- Transplant and Vascular Access Clinical Lead Highlight Report

#### **Matters requiring Committee level consideration and/or approval**

**None.**

#### **Matters referred to other Committees**

- **None**

**Date of next meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2024**