

JOINT COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE (JCC) MEETING BRIEFING – 23 APRIL 2024

The Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) held its latest public meeting on 23 April 2024. 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 JCC.

The papers for the meeting can be accessed using the link below:
[Meeting Dates and Papers - NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee.](#)

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) and the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) meetings held on the 19 March 2024 were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meetings. The minutes of the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) meeting held on 9 April 2024 were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Chairs Report

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

- **The update from the new Chair of the JCC** - the inaugural JCC meeting on 9 April 2024 received and approved the governance framework for the new JCC after it had been approved by the 7 x Health Boards (HBs) in March 2024, and the overwhelming first impression was of an organisation in good heart and in good shape, notwithstanding the significant challenges and complexities of combining the different organisations into one new national NHS sub committee,
- **JCC Induction Programme** – an update on introductory meetings with key personnel and partners and the local induction session attended and the forthcoming NHS Wales Induction programme for new Independent Members (IMs),
- **Chair's Action WHSSC – Approval of the WHSSC Legacy Statement** – the Chairs action taken by the Chair of WHSSC on 25 March 2024 to approve the WHSSC Legacy Statement as part of the work to support the establishment of the new NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) from 1 April 2024 in accordance with the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (Wales) Regulations 2024 was ratified; and
- **Key Meetings attended.**

Members (1) **noted** the report; and (2) **ratified** the WHSSC Chairs action taken on 25 March 2024 to approve the WHSSC legacy statement.

3. Interim Chief Commissioners Report

Members received the interim Chief Commissioners Report and **noted** the following updates:

- **New Interim Chief Commissioner** - an update on the interim 6 month appointment of Chief Commissioner, meetings held with key partners, staff and stakeholders to build relationships and the warm welcome received from everyone; and
- **NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee Implementation** - The programme of work to establish the new NHS Wales JCC came to fruition on 1 April 2024. The final Welsh Government Oversight Board meeting is being held on 30 April 2024 to complete the programme. JCC members received the transitional plan for Quarter 1 2024-2025 at its meeting on 9 April 2024 which incorporated the transitional plan developed by Welsh Government and the actions required to ensure the stability and business continuity of the functions to be delivered.

Members **noted** the report.

4. Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS Service Review

Members received a report presenting the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) with recommendations of the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) Service Review which has been ongoing since November 2022 and overseen by the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) up until 31 March 2024 which had responsibility for commissioning these services prior to the establishment of the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) on 1 April 2024.

The Committee gave thanks to stakeholders for their patience during the time taken to ensure the work could be carried out robustly, and were especially grateful for the way in which the Charity and EMRTS had supported and contributed to the Review in what had been challenging circumstances for them given the uncertainty affecting their people and business planning.

The Committee expressed gratitude to Llais, the national citizens voice body for Wales, who advised on the engagement as well as NHS Wales colleagues to have helped deliver the all Wales engagement with citizens.

Members noted that since taking up appointment the Chair and the interim Chief Commissioner felt it was important to listen to a variety of concerns and had been proactive in meeting with key stakeholders and had been struck by the passion and high regard that is held for the Wales

Air Ambulance Charity and the clinical teams of EMRTS, which had been acknowledged throughout the Review.

Members noted that the report presenting the recommendations of the EMRTS Service Review had been considered individually by each of the 7 x Health Board (HBs) in Wales between 20 March and 11 April, and they gave consideration to the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – EMRTS Service Model. The Committee approves the recommended service model for EMRTS including the consolidation of the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Services currently operating at Welshpool and Caernarfon bases into a single site in North Wales (Option A) as it best meets the objectives of the EMRTS Service Review,

Recommendation 2 – Implementation. To enable delivery of the agreed service model, the Committee requests that the Charity secures an appropriately located operational base in line with the agreed service model (as per the final recommendations of the Review),

Recommendation 3 – Implementation. The Committee approves that a joint plan is developed by EMRTS and the Charity, that maintains service provision across Wales during the transition to a new base and develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the agreed service model. This plan will be reflected in the Committee’s future commissioning arrangements with EMRTS and the Charity,

Recommendation 4 – Additional service provision. The Committee approves the development of a commissioning proposal for bespoke road based enhanced and / or critical care services in rural and remote areas to enhance the core service model. It is recommended that the Ambulance and 111 Commissioning Team establish a Task and Finish Group to further refine and develop the approach and to deliver a detailed implementation plan by the end of September 2024. The Group will work in partnership with HBs and Llais and other key stakeholders and report to the JCC in October 2024. Following conclusion of this work, and agreement of the way forward, the implementation plan will be updated,

Recommendation 5 – Lessons Learned. The Committee supports a Lessons Learned exercise of the review and engagement process to help inform the future work of the JCC; and

Recommendation 6 – Implementation. The Committee agrees to receive regular progress reports on achievement of the implementation plan milestones, and benefits realisation.

Members discussed the recommendations and through a majority of 5 of the 7 HBs supporting, along with the 3 Lay members and Chair the recommendations were approved. Members noted that Betsi Cadwaladr UHB and Powys tHB did not support the recommendations.

Members requested that additional detailed work be undertaken, aligned to key milestones for delivery and that there was a need to provide the public with confidence on the process and impact across Wales.

Members (1) **Noted** the risks outlined above, (2) **Noted** the risk to patients and under-utilisation levels across Wales, (3) **Noted** the national feedback provided by the Picker Institute, (4) **Noted** the localised feedback from communities surrounding Caernarfon and Welshpool bases, (5) **Noted** the representations raised by Llais and the other representations, (6) **Noted** the risks to the Charity, (7) **Noted** that communications and engagement strategies are needed from both the Charity and EMRTS to rebuild trust and confidence with rural communities specifically to ensure the future of this partnership service; and (8) **Approved** recommendations 1 to 4 in line with the Review report and to approve recommendations 5 and 6 on implementation monitoring lessons learned on implementation monitoring lessons learned; and that a report to be brought back to May 2024 meeting outlining key milestones.

5. Legacy Statements

Members received a report presenting the legacy statements from the predecessor joint committees / teams that transitioned into the new NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) on 1 April 2024 for assurance.

Members noted that JCC became operational on 1 April 2024 and in accordance with the Interim Operating Model Framework for the NHS Wales JCC for Quarter 2024-2025 received by the JCC on 9 April 2024, there was a requirement for the new JCC to receive the legacy statements from the predecessor joint committees/teams.

Members noted the legacy statements for the:

- Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC)
- National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (NCCU)
- 111 Service
- Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
- Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC)

6. Other reports

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

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