

<b>Agenda Item</b>
--------------------

2.1
-----

<b>Joint Commissioning Committee</b>
--------------------------------------

<b>Care Home Framework Report</b>
-----------------------------------

<b>Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting</b>	16/12/2025
<b>Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status</b>	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
<b>Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author</b>	Joanna Dainton Assistant Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups
<b>Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter</b>	Adrian Clarke Interim Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups
<b>Noddwr yr Adroddiad / Report Sponsor</b>	Huw George, Chief Commissioner

<b>Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose</b>	For Approval
---	--------------

<b>Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)</b>		
<b>Committee / Group / Individuals</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Senior Leadership Team- JCC	10/12/2025	Noted

<b>Acronyms / Glossary of Terms</b>	
CCAPS	Commissioned Care Assurance Performance System
CCLG	Collaborative Commissioning Leadership Group
CIW	Care Inspectorate Wales
CQC	Care Quality Commission
DOFs	Directors of Finance
DOPs	Directors of Planning
JCC	Joint Commissioning Committee
NCCU	National Collaborative Commissioning Unit
NWSSP	NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
PSR	Provider Selection Regime
RLW	Real Living Wage

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide additional information to JCC members on the benefits, both financial and non-financial, of investment into the NWJCC Care Home Framework.

## 2. BACKGROUND

NWJCC and its predecessor organisation has had responsibility for delivery and management of the Care Home Framework since 2016.

The Care Home Framework has a value of **£370m** circa over its lifetime, and a value of **£83m** over the past year, with **571** resident placements made over the past year.

The Framework provides a compliant route for the commissioning of services for Adult Mental Health and Learning Disability Care Homes via the National Framework Agreement, commissioning across **80** providers, **252** Care Homes and **616** care settings.

Changes in procurement regulations and the 2025 introduction of a new Care Inspectorate Wales Quality Rating system, resulted in proposed changes to the provision of the Care Home Framework and following previous detailed papers and extensive consultation with key stakeholders a paper detailing a number of options for its future was presented at both the CCLG and the JCC during November.

The options identified for consideration and decision were as follows:

- Option 1: Framework ends March 2026
- Option 2: Framework as proposed to Health Boards (without CCAPS and QA)
- Option 3: Framework with the inclusion of CCAPS
- Option 4: Framework with the inclusion of CCAPS and Quality Assurance

The full options evaluation is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Members of both the CCLG and JCC endorsed Option 4.

At the JCC meeting in November, it was recognised that investment into the continuation of the Care Home Framework would result in a number of wider benefits and it was requested a paper articulating these benefits was brought to the JCC on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. Copies of the papers shared in November are attached so that Committee Members have the full detail of the proposed investment.

### 3. ASSESSMENT – BENEFITS

Investment into the Framework has a number of overall benefits:

- **Once for Wales Approach**
- **Legal and Regulatory Compliant framework** and an all Wales placement system through CCAPS. There is currently no similar system within Health Boards that can replicate what the CCAPS system is able to do. The system has been developed and enhanced by the JCC and DCHW with the support and advice of Health Boards over the past 13 years.
- **Quality Assurance & Clinical Support** - Quality and Safety Assurance reviews undertaken by JCC clinical team who are also able to offer clinical support and advice to Health Boards in relation individual patient issues, progress issues, provider issues.  
Health Boards have been approached to understand if their own commissioning teams could undertake the clinical functions described in this point. Only one Health Board felt that they had the infrastructure within their teams to undertake this function. To undertake this function at Health Board level, it was felt that there would need to be at least 2 Band 7 clinicians and Band 4 administration support (Circa **£165,000** p.a.)
- **Improved Patient Care & Outcomes** - Ensuring that providers comply with framework standards will ensure that provision quality and safety is initially in situ and continues to be maintained. The CCAPS system allows for review of quality reports, provider incidents and Q ratings, prior to placement of patient to ensure the care home is the appropriate fit based on patient need.
- **Cost Avoidance** – Ability to compare quality and price across providers, ensure consistent pricing, reduction in commissioning, procurement and administration costs of seeking placements outside of the system.
- **Relationship with Providers** – Providers value the one system for engaging with commissioners. CCAPS reduces administration time for providers which prevents an increase in price uplifts.
- **Identification of efficiencies and opportunities** - at Health Board and on Wales wide basis e.g. Length of Stay analysis, opportunities to cost save across the care pathway.
- **Improved Strategic Planning and Commissioning** – through understanding of population need and unmet need at local HB level and Wales wide to inform equitable care.
- **Financial Analysis and Benchmarking** – opportunities to evaluate investment across the whole system.

- **Cost Saving** - Identification of Clinically Ready for Discharge (CRfD) residents, support to reduce step down timescales and reduce lengths of stay. As an example of how this could avoid additional cost, if the LoS for each resident current placed under the framework, by one day, the NHS in Wales would avoid **£271m** circa of cost p.a.
- **Time Saving**

N.B. The clinical team within the JCC (formerly the NCCU’s Quality Assurance and Improvement Team) currently undertake this function for both the Hospital and Care Home Frameworks. Historically, Health Boards agreed to fund the team to undertake the role for the Hospital Framework only. However, when the Care Home Framework was developed, there was no similar agreement made but it was felt that at that time, there was sufficient support from other clinicians within the NCCU to ensure that the Assurance oversight could be maintained until the Framework came to a natural end (originally March 2025). At the time of the implementation of the framework, numbers of placements were small, only **10** being made in the first year and **45** in the second. This has grown each year with **571** placements made in the last 12 months.

Since the inception of the JCC, a number of clinicians who were able to support assurance reviews alongside their regular roles, are no longer able to provide that additional service due to additional commissioning roles that they now undertake. There is also less capacity within the administration and performance team that used to undertake some of the audit planning and administration functions.

The JCC are able to maintain the function until the conclusion of the current agreement but this has already led to some disruption with the assurance function of the hospital framework (some reviews are overdue and reports have been delayed due to struggles with capacity).

**Appendix 2** sets out further areas of benefit realisation.

#### 4. ASSESSMENT

<b>Objectives / Strategy</b>	
<b>Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)</b>	Improve Equity and Population Health
<b>Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals</b>	Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:

<a href="#">150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf</a> ( <a href="#">futuregenerations.wales</a> )	
<b>Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd</b> <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> <b>Link to Enablers of Quality</b> <i>(<a href="#">Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales)</a>)</i>	Choose an item.
	If more than one applies please list below:
<b>Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd</b> <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> <b>Link to Domains of Quality</b> <i>(<a href="#">Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales)</a>)</i>	Efficient
	If more than one applies please list below:
<b>Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)</b>	No - Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:

Impact Assessment		
<b>Ansawdd</b> <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> <b>Quality</b> <i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:  Dependent on preferred option.
<b>Cydraddoldeb</b> <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i> <b>Equality</b>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:  Dependent on preferred option.

<i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>		
<b>Cyfreithiol / Legal</b>	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
<b>Enw da / Reputational</b>	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
<b>Effaith Adnoddau</b> <i>(Pobl / Ariannol) /</i> <b>Resource Impact</b> <i>(People / Financial)</i>	Yes (Include further detail below) As this framework was managed without additional resources. JCC will now use full resources to manage Hospital Framework Agreement	

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of Joint Commissioning Committee are asked to:

- **Note** the benefits of the investment within the Care Home Framework
- **Approve** the release of funding to support delivery of Option 4 as a spend to save opportunity noting the risks associated with not approving the recommendation.

## 6. NEXT STEPS

- JCC will work with NWSSP to gain "extension at risk" of current Framework Agreement.
- JCC/NWSSP, in partnership with Health Board commissioning teams, will develop a new Care Home Framework Agreement in time for April 2027 launch.