

**Confirmed Minutes of the
NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee Meeting
held in public on
Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 11:30am.
Via Microsoft Teams/In-person Willowford**

Members:

Ian Green (Chair)	(IG)	Independent Chair, NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
Susan Elsmore	(SE)	Lay Member
Abigail Harris	(AH)	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Swansea Bay University Health Board
Philip Kloer	(PK)	CEO, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Paul Mears	(PM)	CEO, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Shameem Nawaz	(SN)	Lay Member
Nicola Prygodzicz	(NP)	CEO, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Suzanne Rankin	(SR)	CEO, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
Carol Shillabeer	(CS)	CEO, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Hayley Thomas	(HT)	CEO, Powys Teaching Health Board
Paul Worthington	(PW)	Lay Member

Associate Member:

Huw George	(HG)	Interim Chief Commissioner
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In Attendance:

Carole Bell	(CB)	Director of Nursing and Quality
Adrian Clarke	(AC)	Interim Director for Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups
Iolo Doull	(ID)	Medical Director
Aaron Fowler	(AF)	Committee Secretary and Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Georgina Galletly	(GG)	Director of Corporate Planning and Strategy
Stacey Taylor	(ST)	Deputy Chief Commissioner and Director of Finance and Value
Melanie Wilkey	(MW)	Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services
Ross Whitehead	(RW)	Director of Commissioning for Ambulance Services and 111

Observers:

Alyson Thomas	(AT)	Chief Executive, Llais
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Apologies:

Angela Mutlow	(AM)	Director of Operations, Llais
Mandy Rayani	(MR)	Lay Member
Nia Roberts	(NR)	Lay Member

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	1. Preliminary Matters
JCC25/108	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed Members, attendees and observers to the Joint Commissioning Committee (JC) meeting held in public and introductions were made. There were no objections to the meeting being recorded which would be available on the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) website following the meeting. It was noted that a quorum had been achieved.
JCC25/109	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were noted as above.

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JCC25/110	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>AT, declared a personal interest in the Welsh Gender Service item. There were no additional declarations of interest relating to the items for discussion on the agenda.</p>
JCC25/111	<p>Minutes of the meetings held on 25 November and 16 December 2025 and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes of the JC meetings held on 25 November and 16 December 2025 were received and approved as a true and accurate record of the meetings.</p>
JCC25/112	<p>Action Log</p> <p>Members acknowledged closed actions and noted that the application process for an Associate Medical Director for Public Health had opened. It was anticipated that an appointment could be confirmed at the next JCC meeting in March 2026.</p> <p>The JC agreed that all reported actions could be closed.</p>
JCC25/113	<p>The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and confirmed that agenda item 5.1 (Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) Update) would be shared at the start of the meeting alongside an update on the Welsh Gender Service (as referenced within agenda item 2.7 - Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups Report (MHLDBG)) to accommodate members of the public and press who were in attendance virtually.</p>
JCC25/114	<p>Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) Update (Agenda Item 5.1)</p> <p>The EMRTS report provided members with an update on progress. RW explained that following the November committee meeting, the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) were tasked with reviewing rural service delivery, particularly in relation to Recommendation 4, taking into consideration the new ambulance performance framework. The recommendations and outputs from the ambulance review will be incorporated into the NWJCC three year Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP). The Wales Air Ambulance Charity were continuing their planning for a new base, but their current base arrangements may need to be extended as an interim measure. HG and RW met with the campaign group in December and a further meeting is planned for early March.</p> <p>Members discussed the importance of rural delivery. Transparency and public engagement and the need for the public to be clear on how they can continue to engage in this work was noted.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report.
JCC25/115	<p>Review of Gender Services in Wales (Contained within Item 2.7)</p> <p>The Chair explained that questions submitted in advance of the meeting from members of the public would be dealt with under the Freedom of Information process and invited AC to update on proposals for the review of the Welsh Gender Service.</p> <p>AC outlined the upcoming commissioning review of the Welsh Gender Service. The scope was in the process of being finalised but would incorporate the recent Levy review. The NWJCC provider clinical team would also be involved in the review.</p>

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	<p>Availability of independent clinical expertise from England was being sought. User engagement will be obtained and a review undertaken to assess whether the correct data is being collected. Members requested that the review include an analysis of quality and outcomes not just performance data. The review is expected to take around three months once all appropriate resources are in place.</p> <p>AT confirmed that a more detailed conversation about the Welsh Gender review, and in particular the plans for service users and public engagement, could be undertaken at the next NWJCC and Llais executive team meeting.</p> <p>A query was also raised in relation to Children's Gender Service assurance with a request for the sharing of relevant quality and access data at a future meeting. CB explained that the NWJCC Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee (QSOC) had received a presentation from the provider at a sub-committee meeting earlier in the year, and the presentation had provided assurance to members. A more detailed review of the service will be undertaken after a full year of service operation and had been included within the QSOC forward plan for 2026/27.</p>
	<p>2. Setting the Scene</p>
JCC25/116	<p>Chair's Report The Chair's Report was received and taken as read.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report.
JCC25/117	<p>Chief Commissioner's Report The Chief Commissioner's Report was received. Members noted on-going organisational development work and the appointment of a new Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups.</p> <p>Members thanked AC for serving as Interim Director and his contributions to the NWJCC.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report.
JCC25/118	<p>Highlight Reports from the Joint Sub-Committees The highlight reports from the following recent Joint Sub-Committees were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality, Safety and Outcomes (QSO) Sub-Committee (15.12.2025) - Planning Performance and Finance (PPF) Sub-Committee (18.12.2025) <p>The Chair highlighted that a critical review of Thrombectomy service provision, which had also been discussed at the December 2025 QSOC meeting, was also being considered as part of the development of the IMTP.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the content of the reports and received assurance that reported matters were subject to appropriate review and scrutiny.
JCC25/119	<p>NHS Wales Joint Committee Risk Register - November 2025 The report presented the NWJCC's Operational Risk Register ["ORR"] (risks scoring 15 and above) as of 30 November 2025. Members noted the ongoing</p>

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	<p>work to refine the organisational risk register and the transition to a more commissioner-focused risk lens.</p> <p>AF assured members that patient and quality implications would remain central to the management of risk, however there was a need for risks and mitigations to be more aligned to the NWJCC's commissioning functions, which JC members supported.</p> <p>The risk register had been discussed and scrutinised by the sub-committees prior to the JC meeting. Work was also on-going to develop a Joint Committee Risk Assurance Framework ensuring alignment with strategic priorities.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report, • Note the work carried out to improve the ORR, and • Approve the NWJCC Organisational Risk Register as of 30 November 2025.
JCC25/120	<p>Director of Commissioning for Ambulance Services and 111 Report</p> <p>The report from the Director of Commissioning for Ambulance Services and 111 was received. Members noted that in relation to 111 Press 2 service, the NWJCC did not hold any commissioning responsibility as the service was provided by Health Boards. There was potential for a future review and discussion about whether a national commissioning function should be considered to improve resilience and effectiveness, but it was agreed that this was not an immediate priority.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report and took assurance from updates received in relation to the ongoing delivery and monitoring of Ambulance and 111 services.
JCC25/121	<p>Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services Report</p> <p>The report from the Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services was received. Members noted that the Joint Accreditation Committee of the European BMT Society (JACIE) report had been received, but certification was not renewed due to unresolved estates issues which relate to in-patient facilities that do not meet required standards for infection control. A six-month extension was given to address these concerns, though the estates issues were unlikely to be resolved in this time. Mitigation for these services includes potential derogation for the delivery of local services and the development of pathways with English providers, although securing capacity for allogenic transplants would be challenging.</p> <p>An update was also provided on demand management work with providers to explore opportunities for managing elective and urgent cases, with progress noted in discussions with Salford and Swansea regarding bariatric services.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the specialised commissioning updates shared • Note the summary of specialised risks described, acknowledging that such risks continued to be managed with services in escalation reported to the NWJCC QSO Sub-Committee for detailed scrutiny.
JCC25/122	<p>Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups Report</p> <p>The report from the Deputy Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups was received. An update on Gender Services</p>

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	<p>had been provided earlier in the meeting. Members noted that the Caswell Clinic had reopened for new admissions but remained in NWJCC escalation.</p> <p>Members also noted the NWJCC's continuing oversight at the St Andrews Clinic which included weekly meetings and multi-agency involvement to manage service quality, including attendance at Gold and Silver operational meetings.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the updates shared with the Joint Committee.
	<p>3. Committee Briefing</p>
JCC25/123	<p>No items were shared for review.</p>
	<p>4. Delivering the NWJCC Plan</p>
JCC25/124	<p>NWJCC Financial Performance Report - Month 9 2025-26</p> <p>The Month 9 Financial Performance Report was received. Members noted the Month 9 reported position of an overspend to date of £4m with a forecast year end overspend of £6.9 million which was an improved position of £0.8m compared to the £7.7 million reported at the last meeting. Members noted that the provision for winter pressures was being utilised as planned with £1.2 million remaining for the year. Year-end conversations with the main English and Welsh providers were underway, with the aim of finalising positions by the end of February.</p> <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The savings shortfall was contributing to the underlying deficit and that lessons from this year, particularly around referral management and activity baselines would inform the next IMTP. • Achieving recurring savings remains a challenge. • The committee agreed that both transformational and transactional changes were required to achieve a sustainable financial position, with a focus on proactive management from the start of the new financial year and integration of lessons learned into future planning. <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the month-end financial position.
JCC25/125	<p>NWJCC Performance Report</p> <p>The NWJCC Performance Report was received. Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going improvements to performance reporting, including enhanced data quality, user friendly formats and the integration of key metrics, while noting areas for further development, particularly in mental health and ambulance data. • The Committee highlighted the importance of maintaining a focus on children's services within performance reporting, ensuring that waiting times and outcomes for paediatric patients were not overlooked. <p>ACTION: Schedule an early development session in 2026/2027 to look at integrating performance reporting with the Risk Assurance Framework and enhance the Committee's oversight capabilities.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report.

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	5. Governance, Assurance and Decisions
JCC25/126	Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) Update Discussions were held at the start of the meeting.
JCC25/127	Corporate Governance Report The Corporate Governance Report was received. Members noted that the end of year governance work had commenced. The Joint Commissioning Committee resolved to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report
	6. For Information
JCC25/128	No items were shared for information.
	7. Concluding Business
JCC25/129	Any Other Business There was no other business to report. The Chair thanked AC for his work as Interim Director of Commissioning for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups.
JCC25/130	Review of Meeting Members acknowledged that the meeting had been shortened to accommodate an In-Committee JC meetings and welcomed the introduction of executive summaries within paper updates.
JCC25/131	Date of Next Meeting The next routine meeting was scheduled for 17 March 2026.

The meeting concluded at 12.48pm