



Agenda Item
4.2

Joint Commissioning Committee

APPROACH TO THE COMMISSIONING OF HOSPICES SERVICES IN WALES

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	17/03/2026
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public Choose an item.
Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author	Claire Harding Assistant Director of Commissioning
Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter	Ross Whitehead Director of Commissioning Ambulance Services and 111
Noddwr yr Adroddiad / Report Sponsor	Ross Whitehead, Director of Commissioning for Ambulance Services and 111

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Endorsement Choose an item.
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Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
Welsh Government Oversight Group	Weekly	Noted
Cross Health Board Task and Finish Group	Monthly	Noted
2 x Hospice Sector Workshops	October 2025 January 2026	
Welsh Government Policy Forum	12 February 2026	
Collaborative Commissioning Leadership Group	18 February 2026	Endorsed

Joint Health Board and provider workshop	4 March 2026	
JCC Senior Leadership Team	11 March 2026	Noted

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
JC	Joint Commissioning Committee
PEoLC	Palliative and End of Life Care

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

Hospice providers play a vital role in supporting people to live well until the end of life, offering specialist expertise, compassionate support and a focus on dignity and choice. The approach outlined within this document requires commissioners and providers to work together to strengthen community-based care, reduce unwarranted variation and ensure that every person, regardless of diagnosis, background or circumstance has timely access to the support they need.

Correspondence received from Welsh Government policy officials requested that the JCC worked with Welsh Government, the Strategic Programme for Palliative and End of Life Care and Health Boards to agree a future commissioning model for hospice delivery within NHS Wales.

2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Specifically, this report seeks endorsement from the JCC on the approach that has been developed, prior to publication by Welsh Government.

3. KEY RISKS / MATTERS FOR ESCALATION

The guidance offers an approach to formal commissioning of the sector and establishes for the first time, a baseline of commissioned services, total value of investment and makes proposals over the short, medium and long term to further strengthen commissioning arrangements with a view to bringing sustainability to the commissioned hospice sector. Subject to endorsement, movement to rapid implementation planning will be required.

Throughout quarter 3 and 4 of 2025/2026, the NWJCC has played a system leadership role in the development of a commissioning approach for hospices in Wales, through bringing together the 7 Health Boards and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership colleagues through a cross-health board programme and engaging the hospice sector through 3 focussed workshops.

The work has been overseen by a commissioning oversight group within Welsh Government, comprising WG officials, the strategic and clinical leads for Palliative and End of Life care and the NWJCC.

The approach has been co-produced (attached as **Appendix 1 – item 4.2.1**) and has two core aims. Initially it aims to establish a baseline position across all NHS commissioned hospice activity, and secondly to provide advice and guidance to commissioners on effective and streamlined models of commissioning aimed at providing sustainability to the commissioned sector. Health Boards and hospices have been involved in the development of the approach and reviewed it in its final stages.

It responds to a range of commitments given to the sector, whilst also reflecting the challenges and opportunities shared by hospices, Health Boards and Welsh Government

Specifically, the approach sets clear principles for the commissioning of the sector, and proposes a range of actions over the short, medium and long term for both commissioners and providers.

There is currently just under £20m of investment into the hospice sector in Wales each year from Welsh Government and Health Boards, however the range of services commissioned, as well as the underpinning contractual arrangements with providers (which are often historic), vary significantly across Wales. It is imperative that a national needs assessment is undertaken to inform future commissioning arrangements.

There are clearly opportunities for streamlined commissioning models, with a clear request coming from the children's hospice sector for a centralised lead commissioner model, however a hybrid approach is favoured by adult hospices. There is awareness within the sector, that future models of commissioning will require compliance with the *Health Service Procurement (Wales) Act 2024 (and the Health Services (Provider Selection Regime) (Wales) Regulations 2025)*.

4. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)	Maximise Value
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals 150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)	A Healthier Wales
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Enablers of Quality</i> (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Leadership
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Domains of Quality</i> (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Efficient
	All STEEEP principles apply
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	Yes - Refine
	If more than one applies please list below:

Impact Assessment		
Ansawdd <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Aseiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> Quality <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: Will be undertaken as part of the proposed needs assessment process
Cydraddoldeb <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Aseiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i> Equality <i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below: Will be undertaken as part of the proposed needs assessment process
Cyfreithiol / Legal	Yes (Include further detail below)	
	Legal requirements under the NHS Wales procurement regulations	
Enw da / Reputational	Yes (Include further detail below)	
	The JCC as a national commissioner will wish to ensure that commissioning advice within the framework is at an appropriate standard	
Effaith Adnoddau <i>(Pobl / Ariannol) /</i> Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i>	Yes (Include further detail below)	
	There is currently just under £20m of investment per annum into the commissioned hospice sector.	

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Joint Commissioning Committee are asked to:

- **Endorse** the proposed Hospice Framework commissioning approach.

6. NEXT STEPS

The immediate next steps are:

- The recommendation of the approach to Welsh Government
- Welsh Government launch
- Implementation planning