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| <b>Agenda Item</b> |
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| <b>Joint Commissioning Committee</b> |
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| <b>Neonatal Services Update</b> |
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| <b>Dyddiad y Cyfarfod /<br/>Date of Meeting</b>           | 25/11/2025  |
| <b>Statws Cyhoeddi /<br/>Publication Status</b>           | Open/ Public  |
|   | Not Applicable  |
| <b>Awdur yr Adroddiad /<br/>Report Author</b>             | Carole Bell, Director of Nursing & Quality<br>Ross Whitehead, Director of Commissioning<br>for Ambulance Services & 111 |
| <b>Cyflwynydd yr<br/>Adroddiad / Report<br/>Presenter</b> | Carole Bell, Director of Nursing & Quality<br>Ross Whitehead, Director of Commissioning<br>for Ambulance Services & 111 |
| <b>Noddwr yr Adroddiad /<br/>Report Sponsor</b>           | Huw George, Chief Commissioner  |

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| <b>Pwrpas yr Adroddiad /<br/>Report Purpose</b> | For Approval<br>Choose an item. |
|---|---------------------------------|

| <b>Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date<br/>(including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)</b> |             |                |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Committee / Group /<br/>Individuals</b>  | <b>Date</b> | <b>Outcome</b> |
| NWJCC Senior Leadership<br>Group (SLT)  | 19/11/2025  | Noted          |

| <b>Acronyms / Glossary of Terms</b> |  |
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## **1. SITUATION**

This briefing provides a concise overview of the request to expedite a Neonatal Commissioning Reset Review for South Wales. It represents the opportunity to expedite a focused reset building on existing findings to bring clarity, alignment, and actionable next steps for the commissioning of neonatal services in South Wales.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

In May 2025, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care commissioned an assurance assessment of the maternity and neonatal services in Wales. The assurance assessment is being led by an independent Chair, with the final report being presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care by the end of the calendar year.

This nationally commissioned assurance assessment is part of a suite of interventions which the Welsh Government is committed to ensure that the maternity and neonatal safety support programme remains contemporary and responsive to changing evidence for improved outcomes.

Following the agreement of the Phase 1 Rebasing of Neonatal Services in South Wales, in March 2023 Joint Committee (JC) agreed a Phase 2 review to undertake strategic planning on the service model and designation of cots. In June 2023 the recommendation of the Directors of Plannings group was that the programme should be a collaborative piece of strategic planning, owned by HBs, with the Programme Management undertaken by the former WHSSC.

Work on implementation of Phase 2 was impacted by the formation of the NWJCC and the subsequent Organisational Change Process (OCP). Following the completion of the OCP, it was confirmed that the Maternity and Neonatal assurance assessment would be undertaken and therefore a decision was made to pause this work whilst awaiting the outcome of the assessment.

However, following a meeting with Welsh Government Chief Nursing Officer during September 2025 there was a request of the JCC to expedite this work with a particular focus on cot configuration and the provision of neonatal transport aiming for a decision point by the end of March.

The work will aim to undertake a focused reset of neonatal commissioning (including transport) in South Wales and will build on the findings of previous work. It will test whether current commissioning arrangements deliver the right model of care, capacity and outcomes, and identify the actions and decisions required to achieve a safe sustainable and equitable neonatal service.

### 3. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

This section will provide a summary of the proposed work plan .

12-Week Plan (Starting 3 November 2025)

- Weeks 1–2 – Reset & Scope: Clarify remit, gather evidence from previous phases, define success measures.
- Weeks 3–5 – Data & Assurance Review: Validate data, assess current commissioning arrangements, surface persistent risks.
- Weeks 6–7 – Engagement & Deep Dive: Stakeholder discussions, family experience insights, and system mapping.
- Week 8 – Case for Change (Gate 1): Consolidate findings and define the system problem statement.
- Weeks 9–11 – Options & Recommendations (Gate 2): Develop and test pragmatic options, prioritise recommendations.
- Week 12 – Draft Paper & Handover: Prepare board paper and confirm next-phase roadmap for March submission.

Immediate Next Steps (Weeks 1–2 Focus)

- Confirm scope, governance and success criteria for the review.
- Establish PMO function, RAID log and communications plan.
- Gather outputs from previous phases and issue standardised data request (SS263 / NNAP / CHANTS).
- Confirm stakeholder engagement plan by end of Week 2.
- Hold weekly SRO check-ins (Fridays) and PMO progress reviews.

### 4. ASSESSMENT

| <b>Objectives / Strategy</b>   |  |
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| <b>Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)</b>  | Maximise Value   |
|  | Ensure Quality<br>Reduce duplication<br>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><br><a href="#">150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf</a><br><a href="#">(futuregenerations.wales)</a> | A More Equal Wales   |
|  | Healthier Wales  |
| <b>Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd</b>   | Culture and Valuing People<br>Data to knowledge<br>Leadership<br>Whole-systems perspective |

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| <p>(<i>Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)</i>) /</p> <p><b>Link to Enablers of Quality</b><br/>(<a href="#">Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales)</a>)</p>                                   | <p>If more than one applies please list below:</p>                                     |
| <p><b>Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd</b><br/>(<i>Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)</i>) /</p> <p><b>Link to Domains of Quality</b><br/>(<a href="#">Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales)</a>)</p> | <p>Effective</p> <p>Efficient<br/>Equitable<br/>Person Centred<br/>Safe<br/>Timely</p> |
| <p><b>Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)</b></p>  | <p>No - Not Applicable</p> <p>If more than one applies please list below:</p>          |

| <b>Impact Assessment</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Ansawdd</b><br/><i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i></p> <p><b>Quality</b><br/><i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i></p>              | <p>Yes: <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <p>No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p><b>Cydraddoldeb</b><br/><i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i></p> <p><b>Equality</b><br/><i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i></p> | <p>Yes: <input type="checkbox"/></p>   | <p>No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p><b>Cyfreithiol / Legal</b></p>   | <p>There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.</p> |  |

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| <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><br><i>(Pobl / Ariannol) /</i><br><b>Resource Impact</b><br><i>(People / Financial)</i> | <p>Yes (Include further detail below)</p> <p>There is a resource required to undertake this work given the timescales for delivery.</p> <p>Internal resources from the JCC has been re-directed to this work.</p> |

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of the Joint Commissioning Committee are asked to:

- **Approve** the undertaking of the Neonatal Commissioning Reset Review for South Wales.