

<b>Reporting Committee</b>	<b>Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)</b>
<b>Chaired by</b>	<b>Chair, Welsh Kidney Network (WKN)</b>
<b>Lead Executive Director</b>	<b>Director of Planning and Performance</b>
<b>Date of last meeting</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> August 2024</b>
<b>Summary of key matters considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.</b>	
<p>This report provides assurance to the Joint Committee in accordance with the WKN Terms of Reference (ToR) which state that the Chair of the Welsh Kidney Network (the 'WKN') will provide reports to the Joint Committee following WKN meetings outlining the activities of the Network and bringing attention to any significant matters under consideration by the Network. Minutes are available on request from the WKN Coordinator, <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk">Jonathan.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk</a>.</p>	
<b>1. STRATEGIC NETWORK ISSUES</b>	
<b>Dialysis Unit Expansion – South West Wales</b>	
<p>An updated position was presented at the Network Board indicating that there is a projected two week delay to the planned opening of the 21 station Dialysis Unit located within Brackla, Bridgend. Thus, moving the opening date from 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024. This has been a result of wet weather conditions impacting on the construction phase. The 27 station Dialysis Unit located within Neath Port Talbot area remains scheduled for opening June 2025.</p>	
<p>There is not full assurance on the delivery to the revised timescale but weekly meetings are in place with contractor and escalation process into the Welsh Kidney Network if required. The risk is on both the SBUHB and WKN risk registers.</p>	
<b>Value in Healthcare</b>	
<p>The Network has received confirmation from Welsh Government that Value in Healthcare funding will continue in 2024-25 on a recurrent basis in line with the funding levels agreed in 2023-24 of £446K per annum. Quarterly review meetings with the Value in Health team within the NHS Executive will be held in order to monitor benefits, develop optimum pathways and ensure that these are used to spread and scale across the country. Quarterly update reports are also required by the end September, December and March. The current projects and investment include:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Wales approach to 'Transplant First and Kidney Risk Equation tool. Led by the South West Wales region</li> <li>• Improving the number of patients with known progressive Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) to pre-emptive transplant listing and home dialysis options. Led by the South West Wales region</li> </ul>	

- Development of a prehabilitation service. Led by the South East Wales region
- Increasing patient numbers in Transplantation and Home Therapies. Led by the North Wales region.

### **WKN Risk Register**

The Board received the Risk Register, noting that there are currently 10 active risks, this has reduced from the previous reporting period of 15. 2 of these scores are 15 or above and therefore remain on the JCC Risk Register:

- WKN 15 Lack of Interventional Radiology in Swansea Bay UHB (16),
- WKN 18 Renal Capacity across Wales (16).

There are two risks that have been de-escalated:

- WKN08 – limited outpatient dialysis capacity within Swansea Morriston Hospital; risk scoring 16 reduced to 12 - Rationale: rating reduced due to confidence of the planned opening of the Bridgend Unit in December 2024 as per project update to WKN Board 01.08.24. Provider is tolerating the risk. Risk removed from the Risk Register.
- WKN (Team) 01- Workforce and capacity; risk scoring 16 reduced to 12 with the appointment of the WKN Manager who started on 25/07/2024.

There is one closed risk for this reporting period, this risk. Risk removed from the Risk Register:

- WKN06 - Renal Funding, risk scoring 16 reduced to 2 and closed. Rationale - Financial plans have been drawn up to look at the areas of reducing the funding gap of £0.82m. This will form part of the financial reporting at regional levels and Board

### **Financial Plan**

The WKN anticipated shortfall within the Integrated Commissioning Plan 2024/2025 approved funding has increased from the previous reported position of £0.87m to £1.062m. This is due to the assumption that there will be a steady level of dialysis growth across Wales, in line with previous years.

An updated financial paper was presented to Board requesting the approval of £0.531m cost savings that the WKN can pursue from the WKN delegated budget, which partially mitigates the anticipated shortfall of £1m. Of the £0.531m presented, £0.367m was approved, further work is required on the £0.164m allocated against the rebadging unused budget for immunosuppression. This is due to the increases seen within the acquisition costs of Immunosuppression drugs, further review will be undertaken and returned to the October Board for further consideration. The Board agreed that further work will be undertaken with providers on plans to mitigate the remaining budget shortfall, including exploring opportunities to increase access to home dialysis.

It was acknowledged at Board that members of the Network, notably the WKN Clinical Lead for Medicines Management, are also working with the JCC Medicines

Optimisation Team to look at wider renal medicines and contribute to the wider JCC savings programme.

### **Clinical Leadership:**

The recruitment process for the WKN Clinical Lead for Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) and Clinical Lead for Transplant & Vascular Access is live with interviews scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### **Prevention**

On the appointment of a WKN Clinical Lead for Prevention, work is accelerating in prevention and following discussions with AWTTTC, SGLT2I used for Diabetic Kidney Disease (DKD) and non-DKD have been approved as National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) for Wales 2025-2028. The draft proposal is out for public consultation, this includes the recommendations made by the WKN prevention team to broaden the scope of inclusion. The aim is to raise the profile of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) prevention, with potential benefits both clinical and financial, through stemming the demand for Kidney Replacement Therapy for end stage kidney disease.

### **WKN Commissioning Dashboard**

The newly developed WKN Commissioning Dashboard was presented to Board, the aim is to combine all aspects of quality, performance/activity and financial information on a regional provider and all Wales basis. This will enable comparison of performance and provide assurances around equity of services. Access will be provided to all regions and work will continue on the developing the dashboard and embedding data.

### **Welsh Government update**

During August, Welsh Government will be focusing on kidney disease and kidney services more broadly through the Integrated Quality, Planning and Delivery (IQPD) meetings that are taking place with Health Boards in Wales. The WKN Clinical Lead will be participating in this process.

## **2. ISSUES REPORTED FROM REGIONS**

### **2.1 South East Wales Region**

There are continued issues with general anaesthetic (GA) lists, the service will report updates through September's WKN/Regional Provider meeting detailing the impact on the provision of services, including Home Dialysis.

### **2.2 South West Wales Region**

- An update was provided on the dialysis unit expansion programme as outlined above.
- There are continued issues with scanning services impacting on vascular access provision. The services are looking at the establishment of a Nurse Led Scanning Service.

### 2.3 North Wales Region

- Work is ongoing to increase capacity within Mold Dialysis Unit and Welshpool Dialysis Unit by end of Quarter 2 2024/2025 to support the dialysis growth in North Wales.
- Discussions have been held between JCC and BCU on the current baseline figures for unit dialysis and following a meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 the baselines will be aligned within the next reporting period.
- The NWJCC has committed to working with BCU on moving to a cost and volume model for Unit Dialysis and Home Dialysis.

### 3. HIGHLIGHT REPORTS

The following highlight reports were received at the Network Board meeting:

- WKN Central Team report including Lead Nurse
- SBUHB Highlight Report
- BCUHB Highlight Report
- CVUHB Highlight Report
- New Cross Party Kidney Group
- Housing update position
- Popham Support
- Kidney Care UK Highlight Report
- Kidney Wales Highlight Report
- Clinical Information Lead Highlight Report
- Prevention Lead Highlight Report
- Medicines Management Highlight Report
- Health and Wellbeing Professionals Highlight Report
- Home Dialysis Highlight Report
- Transplant and Vascular Access Clinical Lead Highlight Report

#### Matters requiring Committee level consideration and/or approval

None

#### Matters referred to other Committees

None

Date of next meeting

9<sup>th</sup> October 2024