

Agenda Item

2.12

Joint Commissioning Committee

All Wales Molecular Radiotherapy (MRT) Programme

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	16/07/2024
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public Choose an item.
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Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Noting For Support
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Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt /consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
All Wales Molecular Radiotherapy (AWMOL) group	17/05/2024	Approved

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
MRT	Molecular Radiotherapy
AWMOL	All Wales Molecular Radiotherapy Advisory Group
RD&I	Research, Development and Innovation

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to set out the context, challenges and opportunities for an All-Wales Molecular Radiotherapy (MRT) service that will have capacity and expert capability to meet the anticipated increased demand for MRT over the next ten years. It considers the requirements in terms of infrastructure, workforce, and research, development and innovation (RD&I).

The report has been developed with input from an All-Wales group of stakeholders from the molecular radiotherapy community, which includes professionals, research, industry, health organisations and international experts.

MRT is an umbrella term for the use of radioactive pharmaceuticals in the treatment of cancer and some non-malignant conditions. The radioactive nature of these drugs means that there are special requirements for manufacture, transport, storage, administration, and disposal. This requires dedicated infrastructure and licencing. Logistics are time-critical, as these drugs decay and lose activity between manufacture and administration.

To date, the use of MRT in Wales is limited to a small number of long-established indications, in particular thyroid cancer, and selected cases of metastatic prostate cancer.

These are locally commissioned by Health Boards (HBs). Capability varies considerably between the three Welsh Cancer Centres, and patient access is uneven.

The specificity of MRT i.e., therapy delivered directly to cancer cells and having little effect on healthy cells, leads to an appealing view of benefits in terms of improvements in both symptoms and survival.

There is a growing pipeline of new MRT agents for a range of cancers. It is therefore reasonable to assume that new agents will come into general use over the next few years for common indications and as such, MRT will grow in terms of volume and range.

The current infrastructure and specialist workforce in Wales is inadequate to accommodate a developing MRT service. Furthermore, Wales is currently unable to take part in MRT clinical trials and has limited opportunity to take an active part in the general UK MRT uplift. Commissioning of MRT is complex and will take time and local commissioning of these complex and specialised services would result in inequity and delays.

The All-Wales MRT Programme strategic report (**Appendix 1**) has been written in response to a request from the Director General Health and Social

Services/NHS Wales Chief Executive Health and Social Services Group in April 2022. This request was based upon a case put forward for a need for a Welsh strategy for MRT. Funding was allocated by Welsh Government (WG) on a fixed-term basis (18 months) for a Programme Manager to develop this piece of work, which has now concluded in the strategic report.

2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The MRT strategic report at **Appendix 1** sets out:

- An overview of current services and explains the current strategic placement of MRT services in Wales,
- The case for change in terms of the gap between existing arrangements and future service needs,
- Determines all-Wales objectives to answer the gaps; and
- Recommendations to answer the potential all-Wales MRT service in terms of the operational capabilities and service changes required to satisfy the identified needs.

An informal request has been made to WG for funding to continue the work of All Wales Molecular Radiotherapy Advisory Group (AWMOL) in line with the above recommendations. The request is for funding of a 0.5WTE Programme Lead, Support Manager, Programme Finance and Data Officer, and associated IT equipment, expenses and management costs for 2 years.

3. KEY RISKS / MATTERS FOR ESCALATION

Capacity within the team to support the delivery of the proposed programme needs consideration, however a request to WG for funding is pending to appoint dedicated roles and ensure that the work does not directly impact on JCC core business.

Not supporting the submission of the All-Wales MRT programme strategic report (**at Appendix 1**) may potentially delay MRT related activities and potentially lead to inequitable care delivery in Wales.

4. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Nod (au) Strategol CBC Link to JCC Strategic Goal(s)	Not Applicable
	The JCC was established on 1 April 2024. As yet the JCC strategic goals have not yet been developed.
	Not Applicable

Dolen i Feysydd Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Areas	The JCC was established on 1 April 2024. As yet the JCC strategic areas have not yet been developed	
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)) /</i> Link to Enablers of Quality (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Learning, Improvement & Research If more than one applies please list below:	
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> Link to Domains of Quality (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Equitable If more than one applies please list below:	
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 Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> Quality	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:

<i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>		Assessment completed as part of programme and not required for final report
Cydraddoldeb <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad 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: Assessment completed as part of programme and not required for final report
Cyfreithiol / Legal	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
Enw da / Reputational	Yes (Include further detail below) Continuing to support AWMOL and MRT preparation enables NWJCC to be coordinating national programme. Delivering on this will support our reputation	
Effaith Adnoddau <i>(Pobl / Ariannol) /</i> Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i>	Yes (Include further detail below) If supported by Welsh Government additional funding will be received to support the next phase of the programme	

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The JCC are asked to:

- **Note** the report,
- **Note** the All-Wales MRT programme strategic report at **Appendix 1** for publication; and
- **Support** continuation of the programme as outlined in the All-Wales MRT programme strategic report at **Appendix 1** subject to Welsh Government (WG) confirmation of continued funding to support a dedicated resources for the programme as outlined in Paragraph 2.

6. NEXT STEPS

Once approved the report will be submitted to WG and circulated to relevant stakeholders in Wales.

If funded, relevant posts will be appointed and a full workplan in line with recommendations and reporting lines will be developed.