

Agenda Item

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Planning, Performance and Finance Sub-Committee
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Combined NWJCC Report Month 2 (May 2025)

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	12/08/2025
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	Not Applicable
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Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Noting Choose an item.
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Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
N/A	Click or tap to enter a date.	Choose an item.

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
AB	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
ACCTS	Adult Critical Care Transfer Services
BCU	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
C&V	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CTM	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

DHCW	Digital Health and Care Wales
EMRTS	Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Services
EMS	Emergency Ambulance Services
ESR	Electronic Staff Record
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
FUP OP	Follow-Up Outpatient
IMTP	Integrated Medium-Term Plan
IVF	In Vitro Fertilisation
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LD	Learning Disabilities
NEPTS	Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services
NHS	National Health Service
NWJCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
OOA	Out of Area
OP	Outpatient
PADR	Performance Appraisal and Development Review
PET	Positron Emission Tomography
PETIC	PET Imaging Centre (Cardiff)
Power BI	Business Intelligence platform by Microsoft
PSMA	Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (used in PET scans)
Q1, Q4, etc.	Quarter 1, Quarter 4, etc. (of financial year)
RTT	Referral to Treatment
SBU	Swansea Bay University Health Board
SLA	Service Level Agreement
TAVI	Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation
UHB	University Health Board
WG	Welsh Government
WKN	Welsh Kidney Network

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

The NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) is responsible for overseeing the commissioning of nationally planned and specialist services on behalf of the seven Health Boards in Wales. As part of its commitment to transparency, performance assurance, and strategic planning, the NWJCC regularly monitors progress against its operational, strategic, and workforce plans.

To support informed decision-making and maintain oversight across all commissioned portfolios, a suite of performance and assurance reports is produced and appended to this paper. These provide a detailed and structured view of how services are performing, how aligned current activities are to planned objectives, and what workforce challenges may impact delivery.

The main paper includes the following key appendices:

- **Appendix 1:** The Month 2 Operational Performance Report, which offers a detailed analysis of commissioned services, highlighting system pressures and performance against national targets
- **Appendix 2:** Quarter 1 Position Report against the NWJCC Foundation Plan
- **Appendix 3:** A Workforce Report summarising performance against key workforce metrics for Q4 of 2024/25, helping to identify areas requiring improvement or support.

Together, these appendices enable the Joint Committee to maintain robust oversight of service performance, support accountability, and ensure that commissioning intentions remain responsive to current challenges and emerging trends.

1.1 Data Disclaimer

This report presents data that has been supplied to the NWJCC by providers in line with established commissioning and data-sharing agreements. While every effort is made to ensure completeness and accuracy, the NWJCC is reliant on timely and accurate submissions from providers. Where data is missing or incomplete, this is typically due to delays or omissions in provider submissions rather than the reporting processes of the NWJCC itself.

2. KEY INFORMATION

Members are asked to note following key information from across the NWJCC commissioning portfolio.

2.1 May 2025 (Month 2) Operational Performance Report

2.1.1 Cardiac Surgery

Inpatient activity across the top five providers showed varied trends, with Cardiff & Vale peaking at 62 episodes in Month 12 of 2024/25 before falling to 38 in Month 2 of 2025/26, while Swansea Bay and Liverpool Heart & Chest experienced steadier volumes with early-year declines. Outpatient appointments were more consistent overall, though Swansea Bay's attendance dropped sharply after Month 9, whereas Cardiff & Vale and Liverpool Heart & Chest maintained stable levels. Waiting times for outpatient appointments largely remained within 25 weeks with no breaches over 52 weeks, but inpatient waiting lists saw sustained pressure - particularly in Cardiff & Vale - with 35 patients waiting over 52 weeks by Month 2 of 2025/26, highlighting ongoing challenges in elective admission capacity.

2.1.2 Specialised Cardiology

Cardiff & Vale and Swansea Bay University Health Boards consistently recorded the highest levels of activity in 2024/25, both peaking in Month 12 before showing only modest declines in the new financial year, indicating strong and sustained service demand.

Betsi Cadwaladr experienced steady growth through Month 10 followed by a brief decline and partial rebound, while Aneurin Bevan recovered sharply from a mid-year drop to end the year stronger than it began. In contrast, Cwm Taf Morgannwg reported consistently low volumes, highlighting significant variation in specialist cardiology throughput across providers.

2.1.3 Cardiology Performance (Waiting List)

New outpatient appointments account for the largest share of cardiology demand, with 293,488 patients (69%) waiting during the period, reflecting sustained referral pressure and consistently high volumes. Follow-up outpatient appointments (15%), diagnostics (8%), and admitted diagnostic interventions (4%) together highlight additional system pressures, while a reduction in 'Unknown' pathway entries suggests improved data capture. Overall, the data underscores the urgent need for targeted demand management and outpatient capacity planning to address the dominant source of backlog growth.

2.1.4 Bariatric Surgery

Bariatric inpatient activity for 2025/26 currently appears low, with 10 procedures recorded in the first two months, but this reflects an incomplete year and is not directly comparable to the 149 procedures delivered during Months 4–12 of 2024/25 across Swansea Bay and Salford. Waiting list volumes remain steady, with most patients waiting under 25 weeks and a small number exceeding 52 weeks, primarily in pre-assessment. These early figures should be viewed with caution, and a clearer performance picture will emerge by mid-year.

2.1.5 Thoracic Surgery

Inpatient activity among the top five specialist providers showed notable variation, with Cardiff & Vale peaking at 99 episodes in Month 10 of 2024/25 before declining at the start of 2025/26, while Swansea Bay maintained lower but stable volumes. Outpatient appointments were consistently highest at Cardiff & Vale and Swansea Bay, though Liverpool Heart & Chest delivered steady moderate volumes, and other providers reported minimal activity. Waiting lists for both admissions and new outpatient appointments remain under pressure, particularly in the 5–25 and 26–51 week ranges, with a small but persistent cohort exceeding 52 weeks, indicating unresolved long-wait challenges.

2.1.6 Plastic Surgery Performance

Swansea Bay University Health Board continues to record the highest inpatient and outpatient plastic surgery activity, though recent months show some decline from earlier peaks. While other providers, including outreach clinics in North Wales, report lower and more stable volumes, long waits for admission and outpatient appointments remain a concern - particularly in North Wales, where 643 patients are waiting over 52 weeks for admission and 419 for outpatient care.

In contrast, Swansea Bay had no 52-week outpatient breaches in Month 12 of 2024/25, though the overall waiting list has grown into 2025/26.

2.1.7 Plastic Surgery Waiting List

Swansea Bay delivered 6,759 plastic surgery inpatient episodes across the 14-month period, with 61% elective and 37% emergency activity; a peak occurred in Month 11 (589 episodes), followed by a slight decline into early 2025/26. Outpatient activity remained consistently high, totalling 61,385 appointments, including a notable spike to 5,220 in Month 1 of 2025/26 - likely linked to backlog clearance. Pre-op and general clinic attendances (41,292 in total) showed steady monthly variation, indicating maintained flow and continuity of care across both elective and follow-up pathways.

2.1.8 PET Performance

PET scan activity remained stable across providers during 2024/25, with peaks in Months 4 and 11 driven by increased volumes at BCU and Swansea PET; activity remained strong into 2025/26, indicating sustained capacity. However, performance against the 10-day scanning target remained below the 95% benchmark, with BCU PET demonstrating the most consistent compliance and PETIC and Swansea PET showing more variability, particularly on cancer pathways.

Significant delays in PSMA PET scanning at PETIC due to national supply issues have now been resolved, with resumed production and coordinated mitigation steps helping restore access and reduce waiting times.

2.1.9 Paediatric Surgery

Cardiff & Vale UHB recorded a peak of 193 inpatient episodes in Month 11 before activity tapered to 156 by Month 2 of 2025/26, while Alder Hey maintained modest and stable volumes across the period. Outpatient appointments followed a similar pattern, with Cardiff peaking mid-year and recovering after a dip, and both providers showing consistently stable waiting list profiles, with no patients waiting over 52 weeks for either inpatient or outpatient treatment.

2.1.10 In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Performance

Swansea Bay University Health Board continues to deliver the highest number of IVF cycles, peaking at 48 in Month 4 and recovering to 30 by Month 12 after a mid-year dip, while Shrewsbury and Liverpool Women's maintained lower but steady volumes, with Liverpool missing data for Months 9 and 10. Despite leading in absolute cycle numbers, Swansea Bay has delivered only 47% of its contracted annual activity compared to 73–74% for Shrewsbury and Liverpool Women's, indicating underperformance relative to contract expectations.

2.1.11 In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Waiting List: IVF waiting list volumes remained broadly stable across providers during 2024/25, with Swansea Bay consistently accounting for the largest number of patients and peaking at 321 in Month 9 before falling to 239 by Month 11.

Shrewsbury maintained steady demand, while Liverpool Women's showed a gradual decline, although data is incomplete beyond Month 8. Most patients

across all providers are waiting within 25 weeks, with no reported breaches over 52 weeks, highlighting generally well-managed access despite the absence of formal waiting time standards.

2.1.11 Neurosurgery

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board consistently recorded the highest inpatient and outpatient volumes for neurosurgery in 2024/25, with stable inpatient activity and peaks in outpatient attendance during Months 7 and 12. The Walton Centre reported higher outpatient volumes than Cardiff for much of the year and experienced a rise in long inpatient waits from Month 9, with 12 patients waiting over 52 weeks by Month 1 of 2025/26. Waiting lists for new outpatient appointments remained largely stable across providers, with most patients seen within 25 weeks.

2.1.12 Posture and Mobility Performance

Cardiff reported fluctuating referral and non-emergency activity throughout the year, with peaks in Months 4 and 7, followed by declines and a gradual recovery by Month 12, while standard wheelchair activity remained steady. North Wales and Swansea both showed stable referral and waiting list trends, with most patients waiting under 26 weeks and only minor month-to-month variation, though Swansea data was not received for Months 10 to 12.

2.1.13 Posture and Mobility Waiting List

Across all Posture and Mobility services in Wales, 4,100 patients are currently waiting, with the majority falling within the 0–26 week category. Cardiff holds the largest share of the total, with 1,949 patients on the list, including 14 waiting over 52 weeks. While most other services report low or no long waits, smaller but consistent numbers of patients exceeding 26 weeks are also present in EAT, prosthetics, and the Welsh Artificial Eye Service, highlighting localised pressure points.

2.1.14 CAMHS

Total bed-day activity ranged between just under 600 and just over 650 per month, peaking in Months 7 and 11, with CTM consistently accounting for the largest share. Betsi Cadwaladr and Out of Area (OOA) placements showed greater variability, with recent increases pointing to rising system pressures or shifting care patterns.

2.1.15 Adult Medium Secure Services

Total bed-day activity remained stable throughout the year, ranging between 3,000 and 3,400 bed-days per month, with peaks in Months 7 and 10. Swansea Bay consistently recorded the highest volumes, Betsi Cadwaladr maintained steady usage, and Out of Area (OOA) placements fluctuated, reflecting ongoing pressures on in-area capacity.

2.1.16 Welsh Kidney Network

Comprises three regional providers delivering renal services across NHS Wales, with varying levels of performance across service areas. Unit dialysis demand is growing at a rate of 3.7% nationally, with many units already operating at full capacity.

To relieve this pressure, new capacity has been added in Bridgend (21-station unit) and Welshpool, while all providers continue to prioritise expansion and uptake of Home Therapies.

2.1.17 Ambulance Services / NHS 111 Wales

The Five-Step Model prioritises ambulance services based on clinical need, highlighting significant system pressures. During the reporting period, NHS 111 Wales received 423,699 website visits, with dental issues as the top reason, while 999 services answered 45,814 calls, primarily for breathing problems, falls, and chest pain. RED calls (5,145) fell short of the 8-minute response target, and AMBER calls (13,829) experienced long delays (median: 1h 33m). Despite strong pre-hospital care - such as 90.1% pain management in fractured hips and 89.9% full stroke care bundle compliance - hospital handover delays persisted, with just 15.3% completed within 15 minutes and 19,275 hours.

3. 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))	Data to Knowledge
	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 <i>(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</i>	Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	No - Not Applicable
	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 <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:
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:
Cyfreithiol / Legal	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
Enw da / Reputational	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
Effaith Adnoddau <i>(Pobl /Ariannol) /</i> Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i>	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the NWJCC Combined Report for May 2025; and
- **Note** the on-going work to align indicators and metrics into a Combined NWJCC Report.