

## ASSURANCE REPORT

### NHS WALES SHARED SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

<b>Reporting Committee</b>	<b>Shared Service Partnership Committee</b>
<b>Chaired by</b>	Tracy Myhill, NWSSP Chair
<b>Lead Executive</b>	Neil Frow, Managing Director, NWSSP
<b>Author and contact details.</b>	Peter Stephenson, Head of Finance and Business Development
<b>Date of meeting</b>	19 May 2022
<b>Summary of key matters including achievements and progress considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.</b>	
<b><u>Matters Arising – Recruitment Update</u></b>	
<p>Gareth Hardacre, Director of People &amp; OD gave an update on the progress being made on the Recruitment Modernisation Action Plan following the deep dive on this topic in the March Committee.</p> <p>All organisations are now live on the latest version (3) of NHS Jobs. Progress has been made in letting the IT contract for the Pre-Employment Checks, but this has been slightly delayed as clarification is needed by the Home Office surrounding the cyber security requirements in the product specification. However, the deadline of September 2022, where either face-to-face checks are re-introduced or the IT solution is in place, should still be met.</p> <p>The Action Plan for revising specific recruitment processes is due to go to Workforce Directors on May 20<sup>th</sup> and includes the proposal to establish a senior Programme Board to oversee delivery of the Plan. Performance against Recruitment Key Performance Indicators is improving, despite there being no drop in the level of activity across NHS Wales.</p> <p>It has been agreed that a deep dive on Recruitment will be undertaken with the BCUHB Executive Board and the offer was made to do something similar with other NHS Wales organisations.</p> <p>The Committee <b>NOTED</b> the update.</p>	
<b><u>Medical Examiner Service</u></b>	
<p>Andrew Evans, Director of Primary Care Services and Ruth Alcolado, Medical Director jointly presented to the Committee on progress with the development of the Medical Examiner Service. The service is currently examining around 1000 deaths a month, with a target of 2500 by the time the service is launched on a statutory footing, which is now likely to be April 2023 at the earliest. To date, the</p>	

service has been able to identify potential learning for Health Boards and Trusts in approximately 25% of cases reviewed, and it is considered that 10% of cases would benefit from a Stage 2 Mortality Review – these figures are consistent with what is being reported in England. There are however differences in the way that the service is operated in the two countries, and the nature of the set-up in Wales allows greater identification of local, regional, and national issues.

One of the key benefits of the service thus far is to give each family the opportunity to speak with a Medical Examiner Officer. This has been very well received and in many cases the families have expressed their gratitude for the care received by their family member from Health Boards and Trusts at the end of their life.

To further successfully develop the service Health Boards and Trusts need to ensure timely notification of death, availability of clinical notes, and access to the relevant doctor to discuss the cause of death. The commitment from the service to Health Boards includes that all deaths will be scrutinised by the autumn of this year; that there is effective communication on themes and trends; and that there should be effective monitoring of performance.

In summary it was noted that the service is already making a positive contribution to patient safety, and that consultation is underway and/or planned with clinical colleagues to address any issues and to maximise the benefits.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

### **Chair's Report**

The Chair updated the Committee on the activities that she had been involved with since the March meeting. These have included:

- Meeting with the Minister as part of the all-Wales Chairs' Group. It was helpful that the Minister had recently visited IP5 and consequently gained a good understanding of what NWSSP does and had been left with a positive impression of the organisation;
- Attending her first NWSSP Audit Committee which again had been very positive;
- Continuing to meet with senior NWSSP management, and in particular recently from Specialist Estates and the Temporary Medicines Unit, to gain a better understanding of what they do;
- Attending the DHCW Board Development session in April where NWSSP received positive feedback;
- Chairing the Welsh Risk Pool Committee; and
- Arranging to attend the Velindre Trust Board at the end of June as part of their Board Development session.

Looking further forward the Chair is keen to hold a development session with the Committee, ideally in person for a half-day in the autumn and including other members of the NWSSP Senior Leadership Group. This could include a stock-take

session on what works well and what doesn't work so well for the Committee; allow the Committee to better understand what NWSSP does, ensuring that it is aligned to NHS Wales's organisation priorities and also those of the Welsh Government; looking to the future in terms of which services it should provide; and assessing the current structure of the Committee and whether it needs wider (e.g. clinical) representation. A plan for how the session might work will be brought back to the July Committee.

### **Managing Director Update**

The Managing Director presented his report, which included the following updates on key issues:

- Senior NWSSP management participated in the meeting with Welsh Government in early May to review the IMTP. The meeting was very positive, and the IMTP has been well-received with the Outcome Letter expected in June;
- Work has been undertaken with colleagues from Welsh Government and Public Health Wales regarding the future plans for the recently vacated Lighthouse Laboratory at the IP5 facility. Within IP5, the Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory have had a new laboratory completed which will enable them to perform additional tests and to develop new testing regimes for medical devices, which they were unable to do at the existing Bridgend site;
- Progress continues to be made in terms of the overarching Transforming Access to Medicine Outline Business Case, with a number of workshops held to consider site selection. There is on-going discussion with workforce colleagues and Chief Pharmacists regarding the Organisational Change Programme; and
- The recent cyber security assessment, conducted as part of the NHS Wales Cyber Resilience Unit's work to implement the Network Information Security (NIS) Regulation in all health organisations in Wales, demonstrated that generally NWSSP is well protected from cyber-attacks. A formal project has been launched to address the key areas for improvement identified in the report's recommendations. One of the key tasks in the initial phase, a desktop exercise based around a cyber incident, was carried out at the May Informal Senior Leadership Group.

### **Items Requiring SSPC Approval/Endorsement**

#### **Decarbonisation Action Plan**

Chris Lewis, Environmental Management Advisor presented the Plan which had been formally submitted to Welsh Government on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Committee had previously had the opportunity to review the plan in detail at its November 2021 meeting. Clarity was provided in terms of explaining that this was the inward-facing NWSSP plan and that NWSSP were substantially involved in the production of the national plan which embraces the role that NWSSP plays in supporting NHS Wales organisations to achieve their own decarbonisation targets. Key actions in the internal facing plan include reducing the impact of our buildings, fleet, and

new laundry service, as well as working with staff to help raise the profile of decarbonisation across the organisation.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the Action Plan.

### **Laundry Detergent Contract**

Anthony Hayward, Assistant Director of Laundry Services, attended the Committee to present a paper for endorsement and approval by the Committee. Following the transfer of laundry services to NWSSP from April 2021, there is now the opportunity to tender for laundry detergent on an all-Wales basis. This should provide opportunities for economies of scale compared to the current fragmented arrangements. However, the Laundry Service are also keen to include the provision of dosing pumps and a management information system into the contract which is anticipated to total £2m over a five-year period.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the paper.

### **Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**

The Committee reviewed the draft Annual Governance Statement which will be taken to the NWSSP Audit Committee in July for formal approval. The statement is substantially complete, but the formal Head of Internal Audit Opinion is still to be received and the final energy consumption figures for the year are still being calculated. The Statement is a positive reflection on the past year and there are no significant matters of control weaknesses that need to be included. The final version of the Statement will be brought back to the July Partnership Committee for information.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the Statement **IN PRINCIPLE** recognising that it was still draft, and that formal approval would be sought at the Audit Committee.

### **Service Level Agreements 2022/23**

The Committee received the Service Level Agreements for the core service provided by NWSSP to NHS Wales for formal annual approval. The papers included the overarching Service Level Agreement and a cover paper detailing any amendments to the supporting schedules, none of which were significant. (The schedules were provided separately to Committee members for information). It was however noted that the Procurement SLA element would need to be brought back to the July Committee as it is to be further amended to reflect changes resulting from the implementation of the new Operating Model.

The Committee **APPROVED** the SLAs for 2022/23 noting that the Procurement SLA is due to be further amended and resubmitted for approval.

### **Salary Sacrifice – Staff Benefits**

The Committee was presented with a paper setting out the arrangements for the Home Electronics and Cycle to Work Staff Benefit Schemes. There are currently different arrangements in place across NHS Wales, with some schemes being operated by NWSSP on behalf of NHS Wales organisations and other schemes

being operated and managed within health organisations. As well as potentially not providing optimal value-for-money, there is a risk that staff could fall below minimum wage rates due to being members of schemes administered by different organisations. The paper asked the Committee to approve a tender for a scheme to be administered by NWSSP that would cover home electronics and cycle to work schemes.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the approach being taken by NWSSP in awarding a contract(s) for Home Electronics and Cycle to Work with an aim of having an All-Wales arrangement in place, centrally administered by NWSSP, which will be made available to all Health Board, Trusts and Special Health Authorities.

### **Finance, Performance, People, Programme and Governance Updates**

**Finance** – The Director of Finance & Corporate Services reported the outturn position, which is currently subject to external audit, and highlighted that a small surplus of £11k had been generated against total income of £870m. The DEL expenditure for the Welsh Risk Pool was £129.615m and the risk share agreement was invoked at the IMTP value of £16.495m. Additional Welsh Government risk pool funding of £4.861m was agreed above the core allocation and risk share funding to account for the additional cases settled in 2021/22. £17.018m capital funding was received in 2021/22 and fully utilised. £12.348m was spent in March 2022, including the purchase of Matrix House which completed on 30<sup>th</sup> March. The Committee were complimentary of the new style finance report.

**Performance** – Most KPIs are on track except for those relating to Recruitment Services, where the situation is improving due to the implementation of the Modernisation Plan, which was covered earlier on the agenda, but where there is still further progress to be made.

**Project Management Office Update** – Of the 24 schemes being managed by the PMO, there is only one that is currently rated as red. This is the project for the replacement of the Student Awards System which is approaching end-of-life and with no option to extend the support contract arrangements beyond March 2023. The deadline to issue a tender for the procurement of a replacement system is 31<sup>st</sup> May, but currently there is no guarantee of funding for this from Welsh Government.

**People & OD Update** – Sickness absence rates remain at very low levels with an absence rate of 2.61% for March. Performance and Development Reviews and Statutory and Mandatory training results continue to improve although there is still room for further improvement. Part of the issue is in areas such as the Medical Examiner Service where staff may be on multiple contracts, but a solution is being sought for this. Headcount is increasing due mainly to the additional staff recruited as part of the Single Lead Employer Scheme.

**Corporate Risk Register** – there remain two red risks relating to the pressures currently being noted within the Employment Services Directorate, and particularly in Recruitment and Payroll Services, and the energy price increase. A new risk has been added relating to the Student Awards system, which was

highlighted earlier in the Project Management Office Progress Report.	
<b>Papers for Information</b>	
The following items were provided for information only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transforming Access to Medicine Progress Report</li> <li>• Information Governance Annual Report 2021/22</li> <li>• Audit Committee Highlight Report</li> <li>• Quality and Safety Assurance Report</li> <li>• Complaints Annual Report 2021/22</li> <li>• Finance Monitoring Returns (Months 12 and 1)</li> </ul>	
<b>AOB</b>	
<b>N/a</b>	
<b>Matters requiring Board/Committee level consideration and/or approval</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board is asked to <b>NOTE</b> the work of the Shared Services Partnership Committee.</li> </ul>	
<b>Matters referred to other Committees</b>	
N/A	
<b>Date of next meeting</b>	21 July 2022