

# Health and Social Services Committee

**HSS(2)-04-06(p3)**

**Date: Wednesday 8 March**

**Venue: Committee Rooms 3&4, Assembly Offices, National Assembly for Wales.**

**Title: Health Commission Wales (Specialist Services) – Review of Recent Achievements and outline Work Programme for 2006/07**

## **Purpose**

1. To present to the Committee a review of Health Commission Wales' (HCW) recent achievements, and an outline of the work planned by HCW to develop services further in 2006/07 and beyond.

## **Specialised Services Commissioned by HCW**

2. LHBs commission the great majority of NHS services for the population of Wales, either individually or in partnership through Secondary Care Commissioning Groups.

3. The range of specialist services for Wales commissioned by HCW was outlined in circular WHC(03) 63 and is attached as appendix 1. These include specialised renal and cardiac services, specialised neurosciences, specialised cancer services, specialised children's services, specialised mental health services, a number of Wales-wide services (including NHS Direct and the Emergency Ambulance service) and other specialist services.

4. An annual review process has been established to consider whether the schedule of services commissioned by HCW should be amended and specifically what services should be: -

- Removed from the remit of HCW
- Added to the remit of HCW

5. A sub-committee of the HCW National Commissioning Advisory Board (NCAB) has been established to make recommendations on changes to the schedule of services to be commissioned by HCW.

6. The sub-committee invites proposals from a wide range of stakeholders, including clinical networks, professional groups, LHBs and Trusts, and HCW's Regional Stakeholder Panels. Any proposed changes are submitted to the Minister for approval.

## **Strategic Priorities**

7. The strategic priorities of HCW are: -

- Achieving WAG annual priorities, including Service and Financial Framework Targets.
- Continuing to meet previous SaFF Targets.
- Implementing other Ministerial priorities, National Clinical Standards and National Service Frameworks for Wales.
- Continuing financial viability through the Strategic Change and Efficiency Plan process.
- Progressing the long-term vision outlined in Designed for Life.
- Implementing NICE technology appraisals and Ministerial decisions on drugs assessed by All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).
- Continuing and evaluating previously committed developments.
- Implementing HCW service reviews and service strategies.
- Contributing to English commissioner-led developments, where necessary.
- Progressing strategic service reviews and developing commissioning plans to inform future years commissioning.

## **Achievements in 2005/06**

8. Health Commission Wales has made good progress on its plans for 2005/06 and it is anticipated that by 31st March: -

No one in Wales will be waiting over: -

- 12 months for out-patient treatment
- 12 months for in-patient treatment 6 months for cardiac surgery
- 6 months for angioplasty
- 4 months for angiography

Since last April waiting times will have reduced from: -

- 18 months to 12 months for out-patient treatment
- 6 months to 4 months for angiography
- 8 months to 6 months for cardiac revascularisation

9. In addition, HCW has commissioned the following service improvements: -

- Equitable access to IVF treatment for the whole population of Wales, including a significant reduction in waiting times in existing services.
- More patients receiving dialysis at Llantrisant and Swansea following investment in increased

dialysis capacity.

- Introduction of simultaneous kidney/pancreas transplants at Cardiff
- Improved access to PET scanning.
- Significant reductions in Delayed Transfers of Care in medium secure mental health services for adults.
- Further increases in in-patient mental health beds in medium security at the new Caswell Clinic.
- Development of a CAMHS Community Intensive Therapy Team for Cardiff to reduce admissions to inpatient care.
- Development of plans to improve tertiary services for eating disorders and closer working with local eating disorder services.
- Improvements in emergency ambulance service response times, and development of plans to further modernise and improve emergency ambulance services.
- Development of plans to improve local access to specialist services in Wales through the establishment of a referral management centre pilot.

## **Reviews of several specialist services for Wales**

10. HCW has a programme of reviews designed to update strategies for the provision of a number of specialist services. Progress on the reviews currently underway is set out below: -

### **Neurosciences Review**

11. The Review of Neurosciences Services for Wales has made good progress under its Chair, Mr David Hardy, Consultant Neurosurgeon. Three working groups, each involving key clinicians from across Wales and user representation, have led the detailed work on acute neurosciences, long-term neurosciences and neuroscience rehabilitation.

12. It has been agreed that the preferred service model for South Wales is a single South Wales Neurosciences Centre in either Swansea or Cardiff, supported by a Regional Neurology Unit in the adjacent region, to promote more local access to neurology services. A detailed optional appraisal to identify the preferred location for the South Wales Neurosciences Centre is currently underway and is expected to report to the June NCAB meeting.

13. The Project Board is chaired by Mr David Hardy, Consultant Neurosurgeon and past President of the Association of British Neurological Surgeons, and includes the Chief Executives of Swansea and Cardiff & Vale NHS Trusts, Swansea LHB and Cardiff LHB, the Clinical Directors for Neurosciences from both Trusts, Officers from HCW, the Director of the Board of CHCs in Wales and representatives from the Wales Neurological Alliance.

14. In order to identify the best location to host the South Wales Neuroscience Centre, the Project Board will consider:

- The effect of gaining and losing neurosurgical services on each site, i.e. the direct and indirect impact on other clinical and support services
- The feasibility of both sites to develop the facilities and infrastructure required
- The effect on patient access
- The capital funding consequences
- The revenue funding consequences
- The staffing implications

15. For North Wales it has been agreed that the Walton Hospital should continue to provide neurosurgical, neuro-rehabilitation and outreach neurology services. Further work is needed to build links between the academic departments with an interest in neurosciences at the University of Wales, Bangor and the Walton Unit in relation to plans for the development of neurology services.

### **Neonatology Services for Wales**

16. The Review of Neonatal Services for Wales has continued to work closely with the Children and Young Peoples Specialised Services Project, led by the Chief Medical Officer, which is developing standards for neonatal services for Wales.

17. The preferred option for neonatal services for both North and South Wales has been agreed. The resource implications, priorities and funding are currently being finalised with the WAG Policy Directorates and with LHBs, before public consultation on the changes proposed,

### **Thoracic Surgical Services in South Wales**

18. HCW is undertaking a review of thoracic services in South Wales to consider and recommend the most appropriate future service model. Expert advice on the future of thoracic services and assessment of the existing services at both Swansea and Cardiff was provided by Tom Treasure, Professor of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery at Guy's Hospital, London.

19. A final option appraisal will be undertaken in May with any recommendations for service developments being discussed at the June NCAB meeting.

### **Secure Mental Health Services for Adults**

20. HCW is working closely with WAG policy colleagues to develop plans for a new strategy for Secure Mental Health Services for Adults following publication of the revised National Service Framework for Adult Mental Health Services in Wales, recent Homicide External Reviews and the joint Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW), Health Commission Wales review of medium secure provision.

21. This strategic review exercise will commence shortly and will provide, by March 2007, a Secure Mental Health Services Strategy which includes the relationship between criminal justice, health and

social care services and takes account of the issues highlighted in the HIW/HCW review.

## **CAMHS and Eating Disorder Services**

22. HCW has been working with CAMHS networks and NHS Trusts in north and south Wales to develop plans to replace both the existing in-patients units in Wales. We are also exploring the potential to develop Community Intensive Therapy Teams to reduce the demand for admission to in-patient units.

23. HCW is developing plans to improve access to tertiary eating disorder services and working with NHS Trusts and LHBs to improve access to local eating disorder services. The aim is to ensure that patients can be treated locally, and only those who need more specialist care are referred to tertiary eating disorder services.

## **Key objectives for 2006/07**

24. HCW's key service objectives for 2006/07 are set out below: -

- Reduce waiting times for in-patient and day cases in specialist services, including neurosurgery and plastic surgery, from 12 months to a maximum of 8 months.
- Maintain the maximum waiting time for routine angioplasty at 6 months.
- Maintain the maximum waiting time for cardiac surgery at 6 months.
- Maintain average emergency ambulance response times and improve performance in areas where the national targets are not achieved.
- Commission increased capacity for Medium Security at the new Caswell Clinic.
- Reduce further Delayed Transfers of Care in specialised mental health services.
- Complete the planned service reviews (see paragraphs 16 to 26)
- Develop a 5 year Strategic Commissioning Plan for Specialist Services
- Remain in financial balance

## **Action for Health and Social Services Committee**

25. The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Contact: Simon Dean, Chief Executive, Health Commission Wales (Specialist Services)