

Perinatal Mental Health Update - WHSSC response

As the commissioner of Tier 4 services the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) can confirm that the number of patients from Wales that went out of area from September 2017 to 31st October 2018 is 25. The total bed-days for the 21 completed episodes of care over the period was 635 with a length of stay varying between 3 days and 78 days (average length of stay 30 days). This equates to 1.7 beds per day.

Following a commissioning workshop held on the 17th May 2018 two Welsh Health Boards have expressed an interest in delivering a Mother & Baby Service for South Wales. A significant amount of work has been undertaken by both Health Boards in preparing the proposed schedule of accommodation and a potential site location based on the service specification was agreed at the workshop.

It was agreed at the WHSSC Joint Committee meeting on the 13TH November 2018 that a detailed analysis of the submissions and proposed options be undertaken by the WHSSC Management Group on the 20th December for consideration by the Joint Committee in February 2019. It is acknowledged that this work has taken longer than anticipated but the scale of the work at Health Board level was underestimated.

Conversations regarding provision of services for the population of North Wales with NHS England are ongoing. NHSE have however confirmed that they are unlikely to commission beds from within Wales following a decrease in the number of women requiring admission to a specialist Mother & Baby Unit since the introduction of local specialist Perinatal Mental Health teams. The Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Team in North Wales are involved in developing plans

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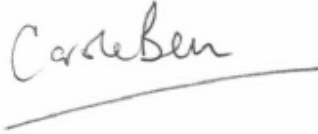
Chair/Cadeirydd: *Professor Vivienne Harpwood*

**Managing Director of Specialised and Tertiary Services Commissioning/Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr
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for a local model for assessment and transfer to a specialist beds either in NHS Wales or England as required.

During discussions with NHS England it has been confirmed that in order to guarantee access annual block funding would need to be agreed and committed irrespective of actual use of beds. This could lead to NHS Wales paying for services that they do not use.

Yours sincerely



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