

**STANDING ORDERS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SHARED SERVICES  
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**This Annexe forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the  
Velindre University NHS Trust Standing Orders**

## Table of Contents

Foreword .....	5
Section: A – Introduction .....	7
Statutory Framework .....	7
NHS Framework .....	9
Shared Services Partnership Committee Framework .....	10
Applying Shared Services Standing Orders .....	10
Variation and amendment of SSPC Standing Orders .....	12
Interpretation .....	12
Relationship with Velindre University NHS Trust Standing Orders .....	13
The Role of the Board Secretary Support Function .....	13
Section B – Standing Orders .....	14
1. THE SHARED SERVICES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE(SSPC) .....	14
1.1 Purpose, Role, Responsibilities and Delegated Functions .....	14
1.2 Membership of the SSPC .....	16
1.3 Member and Staff Responsibilities and Accountability .....	16
1.4 Appointment and tenure of (SSPC) members .....	18
1.5 Termination of Appointment of SSPC Chair and Vice Chair .....	19
1.6 Appointment of NWSSP Staff .....	19
1.7 Responsibilities and Relationships with each Health Board, Trust and Special Health Authority’s Board, Velindre University NHS Trust as the Host and Others .....	20
2 RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF SHARED SERVICES FUNCTIONS .....	20
2.1 Chair’s Action on Urgent Matters .....	22
2.2 Delegation to Sub-Committees and Others .....	22
2.3 Delegation to Officers .....	22
3 SUB-COMMITTEES .....	23
3.1 Sub-Committees Established by the SSPC .....	23
3.2 Other Groups .....	24
3.3 Reporting Activity to the .....	24
4 EXPERT PANEL AND OTHER ADVISORY GROUPS .....	25
4.1 Expert Panels and Advisory Groups Established by the SSPC .....	25
4.2 Confidentiality .....	25
4.3 Reporting Activity .....	25
4.4 Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements .....	26
4.5 The Local Partnership Forum (LPF) .....	26
4.6 Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements .....	27
4.7 Membership .....	28
4.8 Member Responsibilities and Accountability .....	28
4.9 Appointment and Terms of Office .....	30
4.10 Removal, Suspension and Replacement of Members .....	30

4.11 Relationship with the SSPC and others .....	31
4.12 Support to the LPF .....	31
5    WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP .....	32
6    MEETINGS.....	32
6.1    Putting Citizens first.....	32
6.2    Working with Llais .....	33
6.3    Annual Plan of Committee Business.....	34
6.4    Calling Meetings.....	34
6.5    Preparing for Meetings .....	34
6.6    Conducting Meetings Admission of the public, the press and other observers .....	36
6.7 Record of Proceedings.....	41
6.8 Confidentiality.....	41
7 VALUES AND STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR.....	41
7.1 Declaring and Recording Members' Interests.....	41
7.2    Dealing with Members' interests during Shared Services Partnership .....	43
Committee meetings .....	43
7.3    Dealing with Officers' Interests.....	44
7.4    Reviewing How Interests are Handled .....	45
7.5    Dealing with Offers of Gifts <sup>2</sup> and Hospitality .....	45
7.6    Register of Gifts and Hospitality.....	46
8    SIGNING AND SEALING DOCUMENTS.....	47
8.1    Register of Sealing .....	47
8.2    Signature of Documents.....	47
8.3    Custody of Seal.....	48
9    GAINING ASSURANCE ON THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS .....	48
9.1    The Role of Internal Audit in Providing Independent Internal assurance.....	48
9.2 Reviewing the Performance of the , its Sub-Committees, Expert Panel and Advisory Groups.....	49
9.3    External Assurance .....	49
10    DEMONSTRATING ACCOUNTABILITY .....	50
11 SUPPORT FOR THE .....	50
12    REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS .....	51
Annex 1 .....	52
MODEL SCHEME OF RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS .....	53
DECIDING WHAT TO RETAIN AND WHAT TO DELEGATE: GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....	54
HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS: WHO DOES WHAT .....	55
SCOPE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	56
SECTION 1 .....	57
ANNEXE OF MATTERS RESERVED TO THE SSPC <sup>3</sup> .....	57
SECTION 2 .....	62

ANNEXE OF DELEGATION OF POWERS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHERS ..... 62

    SECTION 3 ..... 65

ANNEXE OF SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO NWSSP DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ..... 65

    SECTION 4 ..... 72

ANNEXE OF DELEGATION OF BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITY ..... 72

    SECTION 5 ..... 73

NHS WALES SHARED SERVICES PARTNERSHIP SCHEME OF BUDGETARY DELEGATION.... 73

    Annexe 2 ..... 78

KEY GUIDANCE, INSTRUCTIONS AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS..... 78

NHS Wales Framework..... 78

    Annexe 3 ..... 79

SUB-COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS..... 79

    Annexe 4 ..... 96

ADVISORY GROUPS AND EXPERT PANELS..... 96

    Annexe 5 ..... 109

Process for the Selection, Appointment and Termination of the Chair of the ..... 109

SSPC

# Standing Orders

Reservation and Delegation of Powers

For the

# Shared Services Partnership Committee

Originally Introduced June 2015

(updated )

## Foreword

These Model Standing Orders are issued by Welsh Ministers to Local Health Boards using powers of direction provided in section 12(3) of the National Health Services (Wales) Act 2006. Velindre University NHS Trust (Velindre) must agree Standing Orders (SOs) for the regulation of the Shared Services Partnership Committee's (the SSPC) proceedings and business. These SSPC SOs form an Annexe to Velindre's own SOs and have effect as if incorporated within them. They are designed to translate the statutory requirements set out in the Velindre University NHS Trust Shared Services (Wales) Regulations 2012 (2012/1261

(W.156)) and Velindre's Standing Order 3 into day-to-day operating practice. Together with the adoption of a scheme of decisions reserved to the SSPC; a scheme of delegation to NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership officers and others; and in conjunction with Velindre University NHS Trust Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs), they provide the regulatory framework for the business conduct of the SSPC.

These documents, together with the NWSSP Memorandum of Co-operation dated **[June 2012]** made between the seven Health Boards and three Trusts and two Special Health Authorities within NHS Wales, that defines the obligations of the 12 NHS bodies (the Partners) to participate in the SSPC and to take collective responsibility for the delivery of the services, a Hosting Agreement dated **[June 2012]** between the Partners that provides for the terms on which Velindre will host the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) and the Interface Agreement between the Chief Executive of Velindre (as the Accountable Officer for the organisation) and the Managing Director of NWSSP (as the Accountable Officer for NWSSP) dated **[June 2012]** that defines the respective roles of the two Accountable Officers, form the basis upon which the SSPC governance and accountability framework is developed. Together with the adoption of a Standards of Behaviour Framework, this is designed to ensure the achievement of the standards of good governance set for the NHS in Wales.

All SSPC members, NWSSP staff and Velindre staff must be made aware of these Standing Orders and, where appropriate, should be familiar with their detailed content. The Assistant Director of Corporate Services, NWSSP (Board Secretary for the SSPC) will be able to provide further advice and guidance on any aspect of the SOs or the wider governance arrangements for the SSPC. Further information on governance in the NHS in Wales may be accessed at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/governance-emanual/standing-orders>

## Section: A – Introduction

### Statutory Framework

- i) Velindre University National Health Service Trust (Velindre) is a statutory body that came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1993 under the **Velindre National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 1993 (1993/2838)** (the Establishment Order).
- ii) The Velindre University NHS Trust (to be known as the SSPC for operational purposes) was established under the **Velindre National Health Service Trust Shared Services Committee (Wales) Regulations 2012 (2012/1261 (W.156))** (the Shared Services Regulations). The Shared Services Regulations define Shared Services at regulation 2 and the functions of the SSPC at regulation 4. The SSPC functions are subject to variations to those functions agreed from time to time by the SSPC. The SSPC is hosted by Velindre on behalf of each of the seven Health Boards, three Trusts and two Special Health Authorities within NHS Wales (the Partners).
- iii) The principal place of business of the SSPC is:

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership  
4-5 Charnwood Court  
Heol Billingsley  
Parc Nantgarw  
Cardiff  
CF15 7QZ
- iv) All business shall be conducted in the name of the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership on behalf of the Partners.
- v) Velindre is a corporate body and its functions must be carried out in accordance with its statutory powers and duties. Velindre's statutory powers and duties are mainly contained in the **NHS (Wales) Act 2006 (c.42)** which is the principal legislation relating to the NHS in Wales. Whilst the **NHS Act 2006 (c.41)** applies equivalent legislation to the NHS in England, it also contains some legislation that applies to both England and Wales. The NHS (Wales) Act 2006 and the NHS Act 2006 are a consolidation of the NHS Act 1977 and other health legislation, which has now been repealed. The NHS (Wales) Act 2006 contains various powers of the Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation and details how NHS Trusts are governed and their functions.
- vi) **The National Health Service Trusts (Membership and Procedure) Regulations 1990 (1990/2024)**, as amended (the Membership

Regulations) set out the membership and procedural arrangements of the Trust.

- vii) Sections 18 and 19 of Annexe 3 to the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 provide for Welsh Ministers to confer functions on NHS Trusts and to give Directions about how they exercise those functions. Trusts must act in accordance with those Directions. Velindre's statutory functions are set out in its Establishment Order but many functions are also contained in other legislation such as the NHS (Wales) Act 2006.
- viii) However, in some cases, the relevant function may be contained in other legislation. In exercising its powers, Velindre must be clear about the statutory basis for exercising such powers.
- ix) Under powers in paragraph 4(1)(f) of Annexe 3 to the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 the Minister has made the Shared Services Regulations which set out the constitution and membership arrangements of the . Certain provisions of the Membership Regulations will also apply to the operations of the SSPC, as appropriate.
- x) In addition to Directions, the Welsh Ministers may from time-to-time issue guidance relating to the activities of the SSPC, which the Partners must take into account when exercising any function.
- xi) The Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 (2020 asc 1) (the 2020 Act) makes provision for:**
  - Ensuring NHS bodies and ministers think about the quality of health services when making decisions (the Duty of Quality);
  - Ensuring NHS bodies and primary care services are open and honest with patients, when something may have gone wrong in their care (the Duty of Candour);
  - The creations of a new Citizens Voice Body for Health and Social Care, Wales (to be known as Llais) to represent the views of and advocate for people across health and social care in respect of complaints about services; and
  - The appointment of statutory vice-chairs for NHS Trusts.

The act has been commenced at various stages with the final provision, relating to the preparation and publication of a code of practice regarding access to premises coming into effect in June 2023.

Local Health Boards will need ensure they comply with the provisions of the 2020 Act and the requirements of the statutory guidance.

The guidance outlines the responsibilities of Local Health Board when commissioning services for their population. NWSSP shall ensure they consider these responsibilities in the discharge of their duties.

The Duty of Quality statutory guidance 2023 can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/duty-quality-healthcare>

The NHS Duty of Candour statutory guidance 2023 can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/nhs-duty-candour>

- xii) Velindre shall issue an indemnity to the NWSSP Chair, on behalf of the Partners.

## **NHS Framework**

- xiii) In addition to the statutory requirements set out above, the SSPC, on behalf of each of the Partners, must carry out all its business in a manner that enables it to contribute fully to the achievement of the Minister's vision for the NHS in Wales and its standards for public service delivery. The governance standards set for the NHS in Wales are based upon the Welsh Government's Citizen Centred Governance Principles. These principles provide the framework for good governance and embody the values and standards of behaviour that is expected at all levels of the service, locally and nationally.
- xiv) Adoption of the principles will better equip the SSPC to take a balanced, holistic view of its work and its capacity to deliver high quality, safe healthcare services on behalf of all citizens in Wales within the NHS framework set nationally.
- xv) The overarching NHS governance and accountability framework within which the SSPC must work incorporates Velindre's SOs; Annexes of Powers reserved for the Board and Delegation to others and SFIs, together with a range of other frameworks designed to cover specific aspects. These include the NHS Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework; the Health and Care Quality Standards 2023, , the NHS Risk and Assurance Framework, and the NHS planning and performance management systems.
- xvi) The Welsh Ministers, reflecting their constitutional obligations, have stated that sustainable development should be the central organising principle for the public sector and a core objective for the restructured NHS in all it does.
- xvii) Full, up to date details of the other requirements that fall within the NHS

framework – as well as further information on the Welsh Government’s Citizen Centred Governance principles - are provided on the NHS Wales Governance e-manual which can be accessed at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/governance-emanual/standing-orders>.

Directions or guidance on specific aspects of Trusts’ business are also issued in hard copy, usually under cover of a Ministerial letter.

## Framework

- xviii) The specific governance and accountability arrangements established for the SSPC are set out within the following documents (which is not an exhaustive list):
- these SSPC SOs and Annexe 1: Scheme of Powers reserved for the SSPC and Delegation to others;
  - the Velindre University NHS Trust SFIs;
  - a Memorandum of Co-operation that defines the obligations of the Partners to participate in the SSPC and to take collective responsibility for the delivery of the services defining the respective roles of the Partners;
  - a Hosting Agreement between the Partners that provides for the terms on which Velindre will host NWSSP;
  - an Interface Agreement between the Chief Executive of Velindre (as the Accountable Officer for the organisation) and the Managing Director of Shared Services (as the Accountable Officer for NWSSP) that defines the respective roles of the two Accountable Officers; and
  - an Accountability Agreement between the Chair of the SSPC and the Managing Director of Shared Services (as the Accountable Officer for NWSSP).
- xix) Annexe 2 to these SOs provides details of the key documents that, together with these SOs, make up the SSPC’s governance and accountability framework. These documents must be read in conjunction with these SSPC SOs.
- xx) The SSPC may from time to time, subject to the prior approval of Velindre’s Board, agree operating procedures which apply to SSPC members and/or members of NWSSP staff and others. The decisions to approve these operating procedures will be recorded in an appropriate SSPC minute and, where appropriate, will also be considered to be an integral part of these SSPC SOs and SFIs. Details of the SSPC’s key operating procedures are also included in Annexe 2 of these SOs.

## Applying Shared Services Standing Orders

- xxi) These SSPC SOs (together with the Velindre University NHS Trust SFIs



and other documents making up the governance and accountability framework) will, as far as they are applicable, also apply to meetings of any Sub-Committees established by the SSPC, including any Advisory Groups. These SSPC SOs may be amended or adapted for the Sub-Committees or Advisory Groups as appropriate, with the approval of the SSPC. Further details on Sub-Committees and Advisory Groups may be found in Annexes 3 and 4 of these NWSSP, respectively.

Full details of any non-compliance with these SSPC SOs, including an explanation of the reasons and circumstances must be reported in the first instance to the Assistant Director of Corporate Services, who will ask the Velindre Audit Committee to formally consider the matter and make proposals to the SSPC on any action to be taken. All SSPC members and SSPC officers have a duty to report any non-compliance to the Assistant Director of Corporate Services as soon as they are aware of any circumstance that has not previously been reported. **Ultimately, failure to comply with SSPC SOs is a disciplinary matter.**

### **Variation and amendment of SSPC Standing Orders**

- xxii) Although SOs are subject to regular, annual review there may, exceptionally, be an occasion where the SSPC determines that it is necessary to vary or amend the SOs during the year. In these circumstances, the Chair of the SSPC, advised by the Assistant Director of Corporate Services, shall submit a formal report to the Velindre Trust Board, setting out the nature and rationale for the proposed variation or amendment. Such a decision may only be made if:
- Each of the SSPC members are in favour of the amendment; or
  - In the event that agreement cannot be reached, the Velindre Trust Board determine that the amendment should be approved.

### **Interpretation**

- xxiii) During any SSPC meeting where there is doubt as to the applicability or interpretation of the SSPC SOs, the Chair of the SSPC shall have the final say, provided that their decision does not conflict with rights, liabilities or duties as prescribed by law. In doing so, the Chair should take appropriate advice from the Board Secretary support function.
- xxiv) The terms and provisions contained within these SOs aim to reflect those covered within all applicable health legislation. The legislation takes precedence over these SSPC SOs, when interpreting any term or provision covered by legislation.

## **Relationship with Velindre University NHS Trust Standing Orders**

- xxv) These SSPC SOs form an Annexe to Velindre's own SOs and shall have effect as if incorporated within them.

## **The Role of the Board Secretary Support Function**

- xxvi) The role of the Board Secretary support function is crucial to the ongoing development and maintenance of a strong governance framework within the SSPC and is a key source of advice and support to the Chair and SSPC members. Independent of the SSPC, the Board Secretary support function will act as the guardian of good governance within the SSPC and shall ensure that the functions outlined below are delivered:
- providing advice to the SSPC as a whole and to individual Committee members on all aspects of governance;
  - facilitating the effective conduct of SSPC business through meetings of the SSPC, its Sub-Committees and Advisory Groups;
  - ensuring that SSPC members have the right information to enable them to make informed decisions and fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of these SOs;
  - ensuring that in all its dealings, the SSPC acts fairly, with integrity, and without prejudice or discrimination;
  - contributing to the development of an organisational culture that embodies NHS values and standards of behaviour; and
  - monitoring the SSPC's compliance with the law, Shared Services SOs and the framework set by Velindre and Welsh Ministers.
- xxvii) As advisor to the SSPC, the Board Secretary support function role does not affect the specific responsibilities of SSPC members for governing the Committee's operations. The Board Secretary Support role is directly accountable for the conduct of their role to the Chair of the SSPC and reports to the Managing Director of NWSSP on a regular basis.

## Section B – Standing Orders

### 1. THE (SSPC)

#### 1.1 Purpose, Role, Responsibilities and Delegated Functions

1.1.1 The SSPC has been established for the purpose of exercising Velindre's functions in relation to NWSSP, including the setting of policy and strategy and the management and provision of Shared Services to Health Boards and Trusts in Wales.

1.1.2 The purpose of the SSPC is to:

- set the policy and strategy for NWSSP;
- monitor the delivery of Shared Services, through the Managing Director of NWSSP;
- seek to improve the approach to delivering Shared Services, which are effective, efficient and provide value for money for Partners;
- ensure the efficient and effective leadership direction and control of NWSSP; and
- ensure a strong focus on delivering savings that can be re-invested in direct patient care.

1.1.3 The role of the SSPC is to:

- take into account NHS Wales organisations' plans and objectives when considering the strategy of NWSSP;
- encourage and support the aims and objectives of NWSSP;
- identify synergies between each of the Shared Services and ensure that future strategies incorporate synergistic opportunities;
- foster and encourage partnership working between all key stakeholders and staff;
- oversee the identification and sharing of financial benefits to NHS Wales' organisations on a fair basis that minimises administrative costs and financial transactional arrangements;
- seek to identify potential opportunities for further collaboration across the wider public sector;
- consider implications for Shared Services in relation to any reviews / reports undertaken by internal auditors, external auditors, and regulators, including Healthcare Inspectorate Wales; and
- seek assurance, through the Managing Director of NWSSP, on the adequacy and robustness of systems, processes, procedures, and

risk management, staffing issues and that risks and benefits are shared on an equitable basis in relation to Shared Services.

1.1.4 The responsibilities of the SSPC are to:

- produce an Integrated Medium-Term Plan, including the balanced Medium-Term Financial Plan for agreement by the Committee, following the publication of the individual Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority Integrated Medium-Term Plans;
- agree, on an annual basis, Service Improvement Plans (prepared by the Managing Director of NWSSP) for the delivery by services;
- be accountable for the development and agreement of policies and strategies in relation to Shared Services and for monitoring the performance and delivery of agreed targets for Shared Services through the Managing Director of NWSSP;
- take the lead in overseeing the effective and efficient use of the resources of Shared Services;
- benchmark the performance of Shared Services against the best in class;
- consider extended-scope opportunities for Shared Services;
- monitor compliance of best practice within Shared Services with NHS Wales recommended best practice;
- oversee the identification and delivery of “invest to save” opportunities;
- explore future Shared Services organisational delivery models across the NHS and the broader public sector; *and*
- embed NWSSP’s strategic objectives and priorities through the conduct of its business and in so doing and transacting its business shall ensure that adequate consideration has been given to the sustainable development principle and in meeting the requirements of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Government Guidance on Ethical Procurement and the Code of Practice on Ethical Employment in Supply Chains.

1.1.5 The SSPC must ensure that all its activities are in exercise of these functions or any other functions that may be conferred on it. Each Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority, shall be bound by the decisions of the SSPC in the exercise of its roles. In the event that the SSPC is unable to reach unanimous agreement in relation to the funding levels to be provided by each Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority, then this matter shall be escalated to the Welsh Government for resolution ultimately by Welsh Ministers.

1.1.6 To fulfil its functions, the SSPC shall lead and scrutinise the operations, functions and decision making of the NWSSP Senior Leadership Group (SLG) undertaken at the direction of the SSPC.

1.1.7 The SSPC shall work with all its Partners and stakeholders in the best interests of its population across Wales.

## **1.2 Membership of the SSPC**

1.2.1 The membership of the SSPC shall be 14 voting members, comprising:

- the Chair (appointed by the SSPC in accordance with the Chair Selection Process at Annexe 5 to these SOs);
- the Chief Executives of each of the Health Boards, Trusts, and Special Health Authority (or their nominated representatives); and
- the Managing Director of NWSSP, who has been designated as the Accountable Officer for Shared Services.

1.2.2 Vice Chair – The SSPC shall appoint a Vice Chair from one of the Chief Executives (or their nominated representative) SSPC members. A Vice Chair cannot be appointed if the current Chair is employed by the same Partner organisation.

1.2.3 Nominated Representatives – Nominated deputies for Chief Executives should be an Executive Director of the same organisation and will formally contribute to the quorum and have delegated voting rights.

1.2.4 Co-opted Members – The SSPC may also co-opt additional independent ‘external’ members from outside NHS Wales to provide specialist skills, knowledge, and expertise. Co-opted members will not be entitled to vote.

1.2.5 Attendees – The NWSSP Director of Finance and Corporate Services / Director of Planning, Performance, and Information, NWSSP Director of People & Organisational Development (or nominated representative) and the Medical Director may attend the SSPC meetings but will not be entitled to vote. Other NWSSP Service Directors / Heads of Service may only attend SSPC meetings, as and when invited.

1.2.6 Use of the Term Independent Member - For the purposes of these SPC SOs, use of the term ‘Independent Member’ refers to the non-officer members of a Health Board or the independent members of a Trust, or Special Health Authority.

## **1.3 Member and Staff Responsibilities and Accountability**

1.3.1 The SSPC will function as a decision-making body, all voting members being full and equal members and sharing corporate responsibility for all the decisions of the SSPC.

1.3.2 All members must comply with the terms of their appointment to the SSPC.

They must equip themselves to fulfil the breadth of their responsibilities on the SSPC by participating in relevant personal and organisational development programmes, engaging fully in the activities of the SSPC and promoting understanding of its work.

### The Chair

1.3.3 The Chair of the SSPC must act in a balanced manner, ensuring that any opinion expressed is impartial and based upon the best interests of the health service across Wales.

1.3.4 The Chair is responsible for the effective operation of the SSPC:

- chairing SSPC meetings;
- establishing and ensuring adherence to the standards of good governance set for the NHS in Wales, ensuring that all SSPC business is conducted in accordance with these SSPC SOs; and
- developing positive and professional relationships amongst the SSPC's membership and between the SSPC and each Health Board, Trust and Special Health Authority's Board.

1.3.5 The Chair shall work in close harmony with the Chief Executives of each of the Health Board, Trust and Special Health Authority (or their nominated representatives) and supported by the Assistant Director of Corporate Services, shall ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the SSPC in a timely manner with all the necessary information and advice being made available to members to inform the debate and ultimate resolutions.

1.3.6 The Chair is accountable to the SSPC in relation to the delivery of the functions exercised by the SSPC on its behalf and, through Velindre's Chair, as the hosting organisation, for the conduct of business in accordance with the defined governance and operating framework.

### The Vice Chair

1.3.7 The Vice Chair shall deputise for the Chair in their absence for any reason and will do so until either the existing Chair resumes their duties, or a new Chair is appointed.

1.3.8 The Vice Chair is accountable to the Chair for their performance as Vice Chair.

### Managing Director of NWSSP and the Chief Executive of Velindre

1.3.9 **Managing Director of NWSSP** – The Managing Director of NWSSP, as

head of the Senior Leadership Group, reports to the Chair and is responsible for the overall performance of NWSSP. The Managing Director of NWSSP is the designated Accountable Officer for NWSSP (see 1.3.11 below). The Managing Director of NWSSP is accountable to the SSPC in relation to those functions delegated to them by the SSPC. The Managing Director of NWSSP is also accountable to the Chief Executive of Velindre University NHS Trust in respect of the hosting arrangements supporting the operation of NWSSP.

1.3.10 **Chief Executive of Velindre** – The Chief Executive of Velindre University NHS Trust is responsible for the overall performance of the executive functions of the Trust and is the designated Accountable Officer for the Trust (see 1.3.11 below). As the host organisation, the Chief Executive (and the Velindre Trust Board) has a legitimate interest in the activities of NWSSP and has certain statutory responsibilities as the legal entity hosting NWSSP.

1.3.11 **Accountable Officers** – The Managing Director of NWSSP (as the Accountable Officer for NWSSP) and the Chief Executive of Velindre (as the Accountable Officer for the Trust) shall be responsible for meeting all the responsibilities of their roles, as set out in their respective Accountable Officer Memoranda. Both Accountable Officers shall co-operate with each other so as to ensure that full accountability for the activities of the NWSSP and Velindre is afforded to the Welsh Ministers whilst minimising duplication.

#### Senior Leadership Group (SLG)

1.3.12 The Managing Director of NWSSP will lead a SLG to deliver the SSPC's annual Business Plan. The SLG will be determined by the Managing Director of NWSSP.

### 1.4 Appointment and tenure of (SSPC) members

1.4.1 The **Chair** is appointed by the SSPC in accordance with the appointment process outlined in Annexe 5 and shall be appointed for a period specified by the SSPC, but for no longer than 4 years in any one term. The Chair can be reappointed but may not serve as the Chair of the SSPC for a total period of more than 8 years. Time served need not be consecutive and will still be counted towards the total period even where there is a break in the term. Through the appointment process, the SSPC must satisfy itself that the person appointed has the necessary skills and experience to perform the duties. In accordance with the Velindre National Health Service Trust Shared Services Committee (Wales) Regulations 2012, the first chair of the Committee would be appointed by Velindre for a period of six months.

1.4.2 The **Vice Chair** is appointed by the SSPC from its Chief Executive (or their nominated representatives) members and shall be appointed for a period specified by the SSPC, but for no longer than 4 years in any one term. The Vice Chair may not serve as the Vice Chair of the SSPC for a total period of more than 8 years. Time served need not be consecutive and will still be counted towards the total period even where there is a break in term.

1.4.3 The appointment and removal process for the Chair and Vice Chair shall be determined by the SSPC. In making these appointments, the SSPC must ensure:

- a balanced knowledge and understanding amongst the membership of the needs of all geographical areas served by the SSPC;
- that wherever possible, the overall membership of the SSPC reflects the diversity of the population;
- potential conflicts of interest are kept to a minimum;
- the Vice Chair is not employed by the same Partner organisation as the Chair; and
- that the person has the necessary skills and experience to perform the duties of the chair.

## **1.5 Termination of Appointment of SSPC Chair and Vice Chair**

1.5.1 The Committee may remove the SSPC Chair or Vice Chair by the process outlined in Annexe 5 to these SOs if it determines:

- It is not in the interests of the SSPC; or
- It is not conducive to good management of the SSPC

for that Chair or Vice Chair to continue to hold office.

1.5.2 All SSPC members' tenure of appointment will cease in the event that they no longer meet any of the eligibility requirements set for their role, so far as they are applicable, and as specified in the relevant Regulations. Any member must inform the SSPC Chair as soon as is reasonably practicable to do so in respect of any issue which may impact on their eligibility to hold office.

1.5.3 The SSPC will require its Chair and members to confirm their continued eligibility on an annual basis in writing.

## **1.6 Appointment of NWSSP Staff**

1.6.1 NWSSP staff shall be appointed by Velindre. The appointments process shall be in line with the workforce policies and procedures of Velindre and any directions made by the Welsh Ministers.

## **1.7 Responsibilities and Relationships with each Health Board, Trust and Special Health Authority's Board, Velindre University NHS Trust as the Host and Others**

1.7.1 The SSPC is not a separate legal entity from each of the Health Boards, Trusts, and Special Health Authorities. It shall report to each Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority Board on its activities, to which it is formally accountable in respect of the exercise of the Shared Services functions carried out on their behalf. Velindre's Trust Board will not be responsible or accountable for exercising Velindre's functions in relation to NWSSP, including the setting of policy and strategy and the management and provision of Shared Services to Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority. Velindre's Board, as the host organisation, shall be responsible for ensuring that NWSSP staff act in accordance with the administrative policies and procedures agreed between Velindre and the SSPC.

1.7.2 Each Health Board, Trust and Special Health Authority shall determine the arrangements for any meetings with the Managing Director of NWSSP and their organisation through the SSPC.

1.7.3 The Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority Chairs, through the lead Chair, shall put in place arrangements to meet with the SSPC Chair on a regular basis to discuss the SSPC's activities and operation.

## **2 RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF SHARED SERVICES FUNCTIONS**

Within the framework agreed by Velindre, and set out within these SSPC SOs, and subject to any directions that may be given by the Welsh Ministers, the SSPC may make arrangements for certain functions to be carried out on its behalf so that the day-to-day business of the SSPC may be carried out effectively and in a manner that secures the achievement of its aims and objectives. In doing so, the SSPC must set out clearly the terms and conditions upon which any delegation is being made.

The SSPC's determination of those matters that it will retain, and those that will be delegated to others shall be set out in a:

- i Scheme of matters reserved to the SSPC;
  - ii Scheme of Delegation to Sub-Committees of the SSPC and others;
- and



- iii Scheme of Delegation, including financial limits, to Velindre NWSSP officers and non-NWSSP officers

all of which must be formally agreed by Velindre and adopted by the SSPC.

The SSPC retains full responsibility for any functions delegated to others to carry out on its behalf.

## **2.1 Chair's Action on Urgent Matters**

2.1.1 There may, occasionally, be circumstances where decisions which would normally be made by the SSPC need to be taken between scheduled meetings, and it is not practicable to call a meeting of the SSPC. In these circumstances, the SSPC Chair and the Managing Director of NWSSP may deal with the matter on behalf of the SSPC - after first consulting with at least one other Health Board, Trust, or Special Health Authority Chief Executive (or their representative). The Assistant Director of Corporate Services must ensure that any such action is formally recorded and reported to the next meeting of the SSPC for consideration and ratification.

## **2.2 Delegation to Sub-Committees and Others**

2.2.1 The SSPC shall agree the delegation of any of their functions to Sub-Committees or others (including networks), setting any conditions and restrictions it considers necessary and following any directions agreed by Velindre.

2.2.2 The SSPC shall agree and formally approve the delegation of specific powers to be exercised by Sub-Committees which it has formally constituted or to others.

## **2.3 Delegation to Officers**

2.3.1 The SSPC will delegate certain functions to the Managing Director of NWSSP. For these aspects, the Managing Director of NWSSP, when compiling the Scheme of Delegation, shall set out proposals for those functions they will perform personally and shall nominate other Velindre officers to undertake the remaining functions. The Managing Director of NWSSP will still be accountable to the SSPC for all functions delegated to them, irrespective of any further delegation to other Velindre officers.

2.3.2 This must be considered and approved by the SSPC (subject to any amendment agreed during the discussion) and agreed by Velindre. The Managing Director of NWSSP may periodically propose amendment to the Scheme of Delegation and any such amendments must also be

considered and approved by the SSPC and agreed by Velindre.

2.3.3 Individual members of the NWSSP SLG are in turn responsible for delegation within their own teams in accordance with the framework established by the Managing Director of NWSSP and agreed by the SSPC and Velindre.

### **3 SUB-COMMITTEES**

In accordance with SSPC Standing Order 4.0.3, the SSPC may and, where directed by Velindre must, appoint Sub-Committees of the SSPC either to undertake specific functions on the SSPC's behalf or to provide advice and assurance to others (whether directly to the SSPC, or on behalf of the SSPC). Velindre's NWSSP officers should not normally be appointed as Sub-Committee Chairs. NWSSP officers may only be appointed to serve as members on any committee, where that committee does not have the function of holding that officer to account.

These may consist wholly or partly of SSPC members or of persons who are not SSPC members.

#### **3.1 Sub-Committees Established by the SSPC**

The SSPC shall establish a Sub-Committee structure that meets its own advisory and assurance needs and/or utilise Velindre's Committee arrangements to assist it in discharging its governance responsibilities. The SSPC shall ensure its Sub-Committee structure meets the needs of Velindre University NHS Trust, as the host organisation, and also the needs of its Partners. As a minimum, it shall ensure arrangements are in place to cover the following aspects of SSPC business:

- Audit

3.1.1 The SSPC may make arrangements to receive and provide assurance to others through the establishment and operation of its own Sub-Committees or by placing responsibility with Velindre, as the host. Where responsibility is placed with Velindre, the arrangement shall be detailed within the Hosting Agreement between the SSPC and Velindre as the host organisation and/or the Interface Agreement between the Managing Director of NWSSP (as the Accountable Officer for NWSSP) and Velindre's Chief Executive (as Accountable Officer for the Trust).

The SSPC has the following Sub-Committees:

- Velindre Audit Committee for SSPC
- Welsh Risk Pool Committee

Full details of the Sub-Committee structure established by the SSPC, including detailed Terms of Reference for each of these Sub-Committees, are set out in Annexe 3 of these SSPC SOs.

3.1.2 Each Sub-Committee established by or on behalf of the SSPC must have its own Terms of Reference and operating arrangements, which must be formally approved by the SSPC and agreed by Velindre. These must establish its governance and ways of working, setting out, as a minimum:

- the scope of its work (including its purpose and any delegated powers and authority);
- membership and quorum;
- meeting arrangements;
- relationships and accountabilities with others;
- any budget and financial responsibility, where appropriate;
- secretariat and other support;
- training, development, and performance; and
- reporting and assurance arrangements.

3.1.3 In doing so, the SSPC shall specify which aspects of these SSPC SOs are not applicable to the operation of the Sub-Committee, keeping any such aspects to the minimum necessary.

3.1.4 The membership of any such Sub-Committees - including the designation of Chair; definition of member roles and powers and terms and conditions of appointment (including remuneration and reimbursement) - will usually be determined by the SSPC, subject to any specific requirements or directions agreed by Velindre. Depending on the Sub-Committee's defined role and remit, membership may be drawn from the SSPC or Velindre staff (subject to the conditions set in NWSSP Standing Order 3.1.5) or others.

3.1.5 Velindre's NWSSP officers should not normally be appointed as Sub-Committee Chairs, nor should they be appointed to serve as members on any committee set up to review the exercise of functions delegated to NWSSP officers. Designated NWSSP Directors or Heads of Services or other NWSSP officers shall, however, be in attendance at such Sub-Committees, as appropriate.

## **3.2 Other Groups**

3.2.1 The SSPC may also establish other groups to help it in the conduct of its business.

## **3.3 Reporting Activity to the**

- 3.3.1 The SSPC must ensure that the Chairs of all Sub-Committees and other bodies or groups operating on its behalf report formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the SSPC on their activities. Sub-Committee Chairs' shall bring to the SSPC's specific attention any significant matters under consideration and report on the totality of its activities through the production of minutes or other written reports.
- 3.3.2 Each Sub-Committee shall also submit an annual report to the SSPC through the Chair within 3 months of the end of the reporting year setting out its activities during the year and detailing the results of a review of its performance and that of any sub-groups it has established.

## **4 EXPERT PANEL AND OTHER ADVISORY GROUPS**

- 4.1.1 The SSPC may appoint an Expert Panel and other Advisory Groups to provide it with advice in the exercise of its functions. Full details of the Expert Panel and other Advisory Groups established by the SSPC, including detailed terms of reference are set out in Annexe 4 of these Shared Services SOs.

### **4.1 Expert Panels and Advisory Groups Established by the SSPC**

- Evidence Based Procurement Board
- Welsh Energy Group (WEG) and Welsh Energy Operating Group (WEOG)

### **4.2 Confidentiality**

- 4.2.1 Advisory Group members and attendees must not disclose any matter dealt with by or brought before a Group in confidence without the permission of the Advisory Group Chair.

### **4.3 Reporting Activity**

- 4.3.1 The SSPC shall ensure that the Chairs of any Expert Panel or Advisory Group reports formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the SSPC on their activities. Expert Panel or Advisory Group Chairs shall bring to the SSPC's specific attention any significant matters under consideration and report on the totality of its activities through the production of minutes or other written reports.
- 4.3.2 Any Expert Panel or Advisory Group shall also submit an annual report to the SSPC through the Chair within 1 month of the end of the reporting year setting out its activities during the year and detailing the results of a review of its performance and that of any sub-groups it has established.

4.3.3 Each Advisory Group shall report regularly on its activities to those whose interests they represent.

#### **4.4 Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements**

4.4.1 The SSPC and the Velindre Board must formally approve terms of reference and operating arrangements in respect of any Expert Panel or Advisory Group. These must establish its governance and ways of working, setting out, as a minimum:

- The scope of its work (including its purpose and any delegated powers and authority);
- Membership and quorum;
- Meeting arrangements;
- Relationships and accountabilities with others;
- Any budget and financial responsibility, where appropriate;
- Secretariat and other support;
- Training, development, and performance; and
- Reporting and assurance arrangements.

4.4.2 In doing so, the SSPC shall specify which aspects of these SOs are not applicable to the operation of the Expert Panel or Advisory Group, keeping any such aspects to the minimum necessary.

4.4.3 The membership of any Expert Panel or Advisory Group - including the designation of Chair; definition of member roles and powers and terms and conditions of appointment (including remuneration and reimbursement) - will usually be determined by the SSPC, subject to any specific requirements or directions agreed by Velindre.

4.4.4 The SSPC may determine that any Advisory Group it has set up should be supported by sub-groups to assist it in the conduct of its work, or the Advisory Group may itself determine such arrangements, provided that the SSPC approves such action.

#### **4.5 The Local Partnership Forum (LPF)**

4.5.1 The LPF's role is to provide a formal mechanism where the SSPC, as employer, and trade unions/professional bodies representing NWSSP's employees (hereafter referred to as staff organisations) work together to improve health services for the citizens served by the NWSSP – achieved through a regular and timely process of consultation, negotiation, and communication. In doing so, the LPF must effectively represent the views and interests of the NWSSP workforce.

4.5.2 It is the forum where the NWSSP and staff organisations will engage with each other to inform, debate, and seek to agree local priorities on workforce and health service issues; and inform thinking around national priorities on health matters.

4.5.3 NWSSP may specifically request advice and feedback from the LPF on any aspect of its business, and the LPF may also offer advice and feedback even if not specifically requested by NWSSP. The LPF may provide advice to the SSPC:

- In written advice; or
- In any other form specified by the Board.

## **4.6 Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements**

4.6.1 The SSPC must formally approve terms of reference and operating arrangements for the LPF. These must establish its governance and ways of working, setting out, as a minimum:

- The scope of its work (including its purpose and any delegated powers and authority);
- Membership (including member appointment and removal, role, responsibilities and accountability and terms and conditions of office);
- Meeting arrangements;
- Communications;
- Relationships and accountabilities with others (including the Board, its Committees and Advisory Groups, and other relevant local and national groups);
- Any budget and financial responsibility (where appropriate);
- Secretariat and other support; and
- Reporting and assurance arrangements.

4.6.2 In doing so, the SSPC shall specify which aspects of these SOs are not applicable to the operation of the LPF, keeping any such aspects to the minimum necessary. The LPF will also operate in accordance with the TUC six principles of partnership working.

4.6.3 The LPF may establish sub-fora to assist it in the conduct of its work, to facilitate:

- Ongoing dialogue, communication and consultation on service and operational management issues specific to Divisions/ Directorates/ Service areas; and/or
- Detailed discussion in relation to a specific issue(s).

## 4.7 Membership

4.7.1 NWSSP shall agree the overall size and composition of the LPF in consultation with those staff organisations it recognises for collective bargaining. As a minimum, the membership of the LPF shall comprise:

- Management Representatives;
- Managing Director;
- Director of Finance & Corporate Services; and
- Director of People and Organisational Development.

together with the following:

- General Managers/Divisional Managers; and
- People and Organisational Development staff

4.7.2 The Trust may determine that other Executive Directors or others may act as members or be co-opted to the LPF.

### *Staff Representatives*

4.7.3 The maximum number of staff representatives shall be *agreed by the LPF* comprising representation from those staff organisations recognised by NWSSP.

### *In attendance*

4.7.4 The Trade Union member of the Board shall attend LPF meetings in an ex officio capacity.

4.7.5 The LPF may determine that full time officers from those staff organisations recognised by the Trust shall be invited to attend LPF meetings.

## 4.8 Member Responsibilities and Accountability

### *Joint Chairs*

4.8.1 The LPF shall have two Chairs, on a rotational basis, one of whom shall be drawn from the management representative membership, and one from the staff representative membership.

4.8.2 The Chairs shall be jointly responsible for the effective operation of the LPF:

- Chairing meetings, rotated equally between the Staff

Representative and Management Representative Chairs;

- Establishing and ensuring adherence to the standards of good governance set for the NHS in Wales, ensuring that all business is conducted in accordance with its agreed operating framework; and
- Developing positive and professional relationships amongst the Forum's membership and between the Forum and the SSPC.

4.8.3 The Chairs shall work in partnership with each other and, as appropriate, with the Chairs of NWSSP's other advisory groups. Supported by the Board Secretary, Chairs shall ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the Forum in a timely manner with all the necessary information and advice being made available to members to inform the debate and ultimate resolutions.

4.8.4 The Chairs are accountable to the Board for the conduct of business in accordance with the governance and operating framework set by NWSSP.

#### *Joint Vice Chairs*

4.8.5 The LPF shall have two Vice Chairs, one of whom shall be drawn from the Management Representative membership, and one from the staff representative membership.

4.8.6 Each Vice Chair shall deputise for their Chair in that Chair's absence for any reason and will do so until either the existing Chair resumes their duties or a new Chair is appointed.

4.8.7 The Vice Chair is accountable to their Chair for their performance as Vice Chair.

#### *Members*

4.8.8 All members of the LPF are full and equal members and collectively share responsibility for its decisions.

4.8.9 All members must:

- Be prepared to engage with and contribute to the LPF's activities and in a manner that upholds the standards of good governance set for the NHS in Wales;
- Comply with their terms and conditions of appointment;
- Equip themselves to fulfil the breadth of their responsibilities by participating in appropriate personal and organisational development programmes; and
- Promote the work of the LPF within the professional discipline they

represent.

## 4.9 Appointment and Terms of Office

4.9.1 Management representative members shall be determined by the SSPC.

4.9.2 Staff representatives shall be determined by the staff organisations recognised by the NWSSP, subject to the following conditions:

- Staff representatives must be employed by **NWSSP** and accredited by their respective trade union; and
- A member's tenure of appointment will cease in the event that they are no longer employed by **NWSSP** or cease to be a member of their nominating trade union.

4.9.3 The *Management Representative Chair* shall be appointed by the LPF.

4.9.4 The *Staff Representative Chair* shall be elected from within the staff representative membership of the LPF, by staff representative members in a manner determined by the staff representative members. The *Staff Representative Chair's* term of office shall be for one (1) year.

4.9.5 The *Management Representative Vice Chair* shall be appointed from within the management representative membership of the LPF by the Management Representative Chair.

4.9.6 The *Staff Representative Vice Chair* shall be elected from within the staff representative membership of the LPF, by staff representative members, in a manner determined by the staff representative members. The *Staff Representative Vice Chair's* term of office shall be for one (1) year.

4.9.7 A member's tenure of appointment will cease in the event that they no longer meet any of the eligibility requirements determined for the position. A member must inform their respective LPF Chair as soon as is reasonably practicable to do so in respect of any issue which may impact on the conduct of their role.

## 4.10 Removal, Suspension and Replacement of Members

4.10.1 If an LPF member fails to attend three consecutive meetings, the next meeting of the LPF shall consider what action should be taken. This may include removal of that person from office unless they are satisfied that:

- (a) The absence was due to a reasonable cause; and
- (b) The person will be able to attend such meetings within such period as the LPF considers reasonable.

- 4.10.2 If the LPF considers that it is not conducive to its effective operation that a person should continue to hold office as a member, it may remove that person from office by giving immediate notice in writing to the person and the relevant nominating body.
- 4.10.3 Before making a decision to remove a person from office, the LPF may suspend the tenure of office of that person for a limited period (as determined by the LPF) to enable it to carry out a proper investigation of the circumstances leading to the consideration of removal. Where the LPF suspends any member, that member shall be advised immediately in writing of the reasons for their suspension. Any such member shall not perform any of the functions of membership during a period of suspension.
- 4.10.4 A nominating body may remove and, where appropriate, replace a member appointed to the LPF to represent their interests by giving immediate notice in writing to the LPF.

#### **4.11 Relationship with the SSPC and others**

- 4.11.1 The LPF's main link with the SSPC is through the Managerial members of the LPF.
- 4.11.2 The Senior Leadership Group may determine that designated SLG members or NWSSP staff shall attend LPF meetings. The LPF's Chair may also request the attendance of SLG members or NWSSP staff, subject to the agreement of the Chair.
- 4.11.3 The SLG shall determine the arrangements for any joint meetings between the SLG and the LPF's staff representative members.
- 4.11.4 The Managing Director shall put in place arrangements to meet with the LPF's Joint Chairs on a regular basis to discuss the LPF's activities and operation.
- 4.11.5 The LPF shall ensure effective links and relationships with other groups/fora at a local and, where appropriate, national level.

#### **4.12 Support to the LPF**

- 4.12.1 The LPF's work shall be supported by two designated Secretaries, one of whom shall support the staff representative members and one shall support the management representative members.
- 4.12.2 The Director of People and Organisational Development will act as Management Representative Secretary and will be responsible for the

maintenance of the constitution of the membership, the circulation of agenda and minutes and notification of meetings.

4.12.3 The Staff Representative Secretary shall be elected from within the staff representative membership of the LPF, by staff representative members, in a manner determined by the staff representatives. The Staff Representative Secretary's term of office shall be for two (2) years.

4.12.4 Both Secretaries shall work closely with the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services who is responsible for the overall planning and co-ordination of the programme of SLG and Committee business, including that of its Advisory Groups.

## **5 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

5.1.1 The SSPC shall work constructively in partnership with others to plan and secure the delivery of the best possible healthcare for its citizens, in accordance with its statutory duties and any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Ministers.

5.1.2 The Chair shall ensure that the SSPC has identified all its key partners and other stakeholders and established clear mechanisms for engaging with and involving them in the work of the NWSSP through:

- NWSSP's own structures and operating arrangements, e.g., Advisory Groups;

5.1.3 The SLG shall keep under review its partnership arrangements to ensure continued clarity around purpose, desired outcomes and partner responsibilities. It must ensure timely action to change, adapt or end partnerships where they no longer serve a useful purpose, in accordance with its statutory duties; any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Ministers; and the agreed terms and conditions for the partnership.

## **6 MEETINGS**

### **6.1 Putting Citizens first**

6.1.1 The SSPC's business will be carried out openly and transparently in a manner that encourages the active engagement of its citizens and other stakeholders. The SSPC, through the planning and conduct of meetings held in public, shall facilitate this in a number of ways, including:

- active communication of forthcoming business and activities;
- the selection of accessible, suitable venues for meetings;

- the availability of papers in English and Welsh languages and in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print, easy read and in electronic formats;
- requesting that attendees notify the Committee Secretariat of any access needs sufficiently in advance of a proposed meeting, and responding appropriately, e.g. arranging British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation at meetings; and

where appropriate, ensuring suitable translation arrangements are in place to enable the conduct of meetings in either English or Welsh, in accordance with legislative requirements, e.g. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations, Welsh Language (Health Sector) Regulations and Standards; as well as NWSSP's Communication Strategy and Velindre's Welsh Language Scheme.

6.1.2 The SSPC Chair will ensure that, in determining the matters to be considered by the SSPC, full account is taken of the views and interests of all citizens served by the SSPC on behalf of each Health Boards, Trust and Special Health Authority, including any views expressed formally. The Chair will ensure that, in determining the matters to be considered by the Committee, full account is taken of the views and interests of the Committee's stakeholders, including any views expressed formally to the Committee, e.g. through Llais.

## 6.2 Working with Llais

6.2.1 Part 4 of the **Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 (2020 asc 1)** (the 2020 Act) places a range of duties on LHBs and Trusts in relation to the engagement and involvement of Llais in their operations.

6.2.2 The 2020 Act places a statutory duty on LHBs and Trusts to have regard to any representations made to them by Llais. Statutory Guidance on Representations has been published to guide NHS bodies, local authorities and Llais in how these representations should be made and considered.

The Statutory Guidance on Representations made by the Citizen Voice Body can be found at

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-04/statutory-guidance-on-representations-made-by-the-citizen-voice-body.pdf>

6.2.3 The 2020 Act also places a statutory duty on LHBs and Trusts to make arrangements to engage and co-operate with Llais with the view to supporting each other in the exercise of their relevant functions. LHBs

and Trusts must also have regard to the Code of Practice on access to premises when it comes into effect in June 2023.

6.2.4 The LHBs, NHS Trusts and the SPC will ensure it is clear who will assume responsibility for engaging and co-operating with Llais when planning and commissioning services.

6.2.5 The SSPC shall ensure arrangements are in place to engage and co-operate with representatives of Llais as appropriate.

### **6.3 Annual Plan of Committee Business**

6.3.1 The Committee Secretariat, on behalf of the SSPC Chair, shall produce an annual Business Plan of Committee business. This plan will include proposals on meeting dates, venues, and coverage of business activity during the year. The Business Plan shall also set out any standing items that shall appear on every SSPC agenda.

6.3.2 The Business Plan shall set out the arrangements in place to enable the SSPC to meet its obligations to its citizens as outlined in paragraph 6.1.1 whilst also allowing SSPC members to contribute in either English or Welsh languages, where appropriate.

6.3.3 The Business Plan shall also incorporate formal SSPC meetings, regular Committee development sessions and, where appropriate, and the planned activities of Sub-Committees, Expert Panel and Advisory Groups.

6.3.4 The SSPC shall agree the Business Plan for the forthcoming year by the end of March.

### **6.4 Calling Meetings**

6.4.1 In addition to the planned meetings agreed by the SSPC, the SSPC Chair may call a meeting of the SSPC at any time. An individual SSPC member may request that the SSPC Chair call a meeting, provided that in at least one third of the whole number of Committee members supports such a request.

6.4.2 If the Chair does not call a meeting within seven days after receiving such a request from SSPC members, then those SSPC members may themselves call a meeting.

### **6.5 Preparing for Meetings**

### Setting the agenda

- 6.5.1 The SSPC Chair, in consultation with the Committee Secretariat and Managing Director of NWSSP, will set the agenda. In doing so, they will take account of the planned activity set in the annual cycle of SSPC business; any standing items agreed by the SSPC; any applicable items received from Sub-Committees and other groups as well as the priorities facing the SSPC. The SSPC Chair must ensure that all relevant matters are brought before the SSPC on a timely basis.
- 6.5.2 Any SSPC member may request that a matter is placed on the agenda by writing to the SSPC Chair, copied to the Committee Secretariat, at least 12 calendar days before the meeting. The request shall set out whether the item of business is proposed to be transacted in public and shall include appropriate supporting information. The Chair may, at their discretion, include items on the agenda that have been requested after the 12-day notice period if this would be beneficial to the conduct of SSPC business.

### Notifying and equipping SSPC members

- 6.5.3 SSPC members should be sent an agenda and a complete set of supporting papers at least 10 calendar days before a formal SSPC meeting. This information may be provided to SSPC members electronically or in paper form, in an accessible format, to the address provided, and in accordance with their stated preference. Supporting papers may, exceptionally, be provided after this time, provided that the SSPC Chair is satisfied that the SSPC's ability to consider the issues contained within the paper would not be impaired.
- 6.5.4 No papers should be included for decision by the SSPC unless the SSPC Chair is satisfied (subject to advice from the Committee Secretariat, as appropriate) that the information contained within it is sufficient to enable the SSPC to take a reasonable decision. Equality Integrated Impact Assessments (EqIIAs) shall be undertaken on all new or revised policies, strategies, guidance and or practice to be considered by the SSPC, and the outcome of that EqIIA shall be included within the report to the SSPC, to enable the SSPC to make an informed decision.
- 6.5.5 In the event that at least half of the SSPC members do not receive the agenda and papers for the meeting as set out above, the SSPC Chair must consider whether or not the SSPC would still be capable of fulfilling its role and meeting its responsibilities through the conduct of the meeting. Where the SSPC Chair determines that the meeting should go ahead, their decision, and the reason for it, shall be recorded in the minutes.

6.5.6 In the case of a meeting called by SSPC members, notice of that meeting must be signed by those members and the business conducted will be limited to that set out in the notice.

#### Notifying the public and others

6.5.7 Except for meetings called in accordance with SSPC Standing Order 6.4, at least 10 calendar days before each meeting of the SSPC a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed bilingually (in English and Welsh):

- at the SSPC's principal sites;
- on the SSPC's website, together with the papers supporting the public part of the agenda; as well as
- through other methods of communication as set out in the SSPC's communication strategy.

6.5.8 When providing notification of the forthcoming meeting, the SSPC shall set out when and how the agenda and the papers supporting the public part of the agenda may be accessed, in what language and in what format, e.g. as Braille, large print, easy read, etc.

### **6.6 Conducting Meetings Admission of the public, the press and other observers**

6.6.1 The SSPC shall encourage attendance at its formal SSPC meetings by the public and members of the press as well as officers or representatives from organisations who have an interest in the business of the SSPC. The venue for such meetings must be appropriate to facilitate easy access for attendees and translation services; and should have appropriate facilities to maximise accessibility such as an induction loop system.

6.6.2 The SSPC shall conduct as much of its formal business in public as possible. There may be circumstances where it would not be in the public interest to discuss a matter in public, e.g. business that relates to a confidential matter affecting a NWSSP officer, a patient, or a procurement contract. In such cases, the Chair (advised by the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, where appropriate) shall Annex these issues accordingly and requires that any observers withdraw from the meeting. In doing so, the SSPC shall resolve:

"That representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the

confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest" [Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960].

6.6.3 In these circumstances, when the SSPC is not meeting in public session, it shall operate in private session, formally reporting any decisions taken to the next meeting of the SSPC in public session. Wherever possible, that reporting shall take place at the end of a private session, by reconvening a SSPC meeting held in public session.

6.6.4 The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, on behalf of the SSPC Chair, shall keep under review the nature and volume of business conducted in private session to ensure such arrangements are adopted only when absolutely necessary.

6.6.5 In encouraging entry to formal SSPC meetings from members of the public and others, the SSPC shall make clear that attendees are welcomed as observers. The SSPC Chair shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the SSPC's business is conducted without interruption and disruption. In exceptional circumstances, this may include a requirement that observers leave the meeting. In doing so, the SSPC shall resolve:

*"That in the interests of public order the meeting adjourn for (the period to be specified) to enable the SSPC to reconvene the meeting and to complete business without the presence of the public".*

6.6.6 Unless the SSPC has given prior and specific agreement, members of the public or other observers will not be allowed to record proceedings in any way other than in writing.

#### Addressing the SSPC, its Sub-Committees, Expert Panel or Advisory Groups

6.6.7 The SSPC shall decide what arrangements and terms and conditions are appropriate in extending an invitation to observers to attend and address any meetings of the SSPC, its Sub-Committees, expert panel, or Advisory Groups, and may change, alter, or vary these terms and conditions as it considers appropriate. In doing so, the SSPC will take account of its responsibility to actively encourage the engagement and, where appropriate, involvement of citizens and stakeholders in the work of the SSPC (whether directly or through the activities of bodies such as Llais) and to demonstrate openness and transparency in the conduct of business.

#### Chairing SSPC Meetings

6.6.8 The Chair of the SSPC will preside at any meeting of the SSPC unless they are absent for any reason (including any temporary absence or disqualification from participation on the grounds of a conflict of interest). In these circumstances the Vice Chair shall preside. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent, then no formal business shall take place.

6.6.9 The Chair must ensure that the meeting is handled in a manner that enables the SSPC to reach effective decisions on the matters before it. This includes ensuring that SSPC members' contributions are timely and relevant and move business along at an appropriate pace. In doing so, the SSPC must have access to appropriate advice on the conduct of the meeting through the attendance of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services. The Chair has the final say on any matter relating to the conduct of SSPC business.

### Quorum

6.6.10 At least 6 voting members, at least 4 of whom are Health Board, Trust, or Special Health Authority Chief Executives (or their nominated representatives) and one is either the Chair or the Vice Chair, must be present to allow any formal business to take place at an SSPC meeting. If the Managing Director of NWSSP is not present, then no formal business should be transacted unless there is, in attendance, a properly authorised deputy for the Managing Director.

6.6.11 If a Health Board, Trust, or Special Health Authority Chief Executive (or their nominated representative) or the Managing Director of NWSSP is unable to attend a SSPC meeting, then a nominated deputy may attend in their absence which should be an Executive Director of the same organisation and will formally contribute to the quorum and have delegated voting rights, provided that the Chair has agreed the nomination before the meeting.

6.6.12 The quorum must be maintained during a meeting to allow formal business to be conducted, i.e. any decisions to be made. Any SSPC member disqualified through conflict of interest from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution will no longer count towards the quorum. If this results in the quorum not being met that particular matter or resolution cannot be considered further at that meeting and must be noted in the minutes. A member may participate in a meeting via video or teleconference where this is available.

### Dealing with Motions

6.6.13 In the normal course of SSPC business items included on the agenda are subject to discussion and decisions based on consensus. Considering a motion is therefore not a routine matter and may be regarded as exceptional, e.g. where an aspect of service delivery is a cause for particular concern, a SSPC member may put forward a motion proposing that a formal review of that service area is undertaken. The Board Secretary support role will advise the Chair on the formal process for dealing with motions. No motion or amendment to a motion will be considered by the SSPC unless moved by a SSPC member and seconded by another SSPC member (including the SSPC Chair).

6.6.14 **Proposing a formal notice of Motion** – Any SSPC member wishing to propose a motion must notify the SSPC Chair in writing of the proposed motion at least 12 calendar days before a planned meeting. Exceptionally, an emergency motion may be proposed up to one hour before the fixed start of the meeting, provided that the reasons for the urgency are clearly set out. Where sufficient notice has been provided, and the SSPC Chair has determined that the proposed motion is relevant to the SSPC’s business, the matter shall be included on the agenda, or, where an emergency motion has been proposed, the SSPC Chair shall declare the motion at the start of the meeting as an additional item to be included on the agenda.

6.6.15 The SSPC Chair also has the discretion to accept a motion proposed during a meeting provided that the matter is considered of sufficient importance and its inclusion would not adversely affect the conduct of SSPC business.

6.6.16 **Amendments** - Any SSPC member may propose an amendment to the motion at any time before or during a meeting and this proposal must be considered by the SSPC alongside the motion.

6.6.17 If there are a number of proposed amendments to the Motion, each amendment will be considered in turn, and if passed, the amended Motion becomes the basis on which the further amendments are considered, i.e. the substantive motion.

6.6.18 **Motions under discussion** – When a motion is under discussion, any SSPC member may propose that:

- the motion be amended;
- the meeting should be adjourned;
- the discussion should be adjourned and the meeting proceed to the next item of business;
- a SSPC member may not be heard further;
- the SSPC decides upon the motion before them;

- an ad hoc committee should be appointed to deal with a specific item of business; or
- The public, including the press, should be excluded.

**6.6.19 Rights of reply to motions** – The mover of a motion (including an amendment) shall have a right of reply at the close of any debate on the motion or the amendment immediately prior to a vote on the proposal.

**6.6.20 Withdrawal of Motion or Amendments** – A motion or an amendment to a motion, once moved and seconded, may be withdrawn by the proposer with the agreement of the seconded and the SSPC Chair.

**6.6.21 Motion to rescind a resolution** – The SSPC may not consider a motion to amend or rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six (6) calendar months unless the motion is supported by the (simple) majority of SSPC members.

**6.6.22** A motion that has been decided upon by the SSPC cannot be proposed again within six months except by the SSPC Chair, unless the motion relates to the receipt of a report or the recommendations of a Sub-Committee/Managing Director of NWSSP to which a matter has been referred.

### Voting

**6.6.23** The SSPC Chair will determine whether SSPC members' decisions should be expressed orally, through a show of hands, or by secret ballot or by recorded vote. The SSPC Chair must require a secret ballot if the majority of voting SSPC members request it. Where voting on any question is conducted, a record shall be maintained. In the case of a secret ballot the decision shall record the number voting for, against or abstaining. Where a recorded vote has been used the minutes shall record the name of the individual and the way in which they voted.

**6.6.24** In determining every question at a meeting, the SSPC members must take account, where relevant, of the views expressed and representations made by individuals who represent the interests of citizens in Wales. Such views may be presented to the SSPC through the Chairs of any Expert Panel, Advisory Group and/or the Llais representative(s).

**6.6.25** Except for decisions related to the overall funding contribution from each of the Health Boards, Trusts, or Special Health Authority, the SSPC will make decisions subject to a 2/3 majority of voting. In no circumstances may an absent SSPC member (or their nominated deputy) vote by proxy. Absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote.

## **6.7 Record of Proceedings**

6.7.1 A record of the proceedings of formal SSPC meetings (and any other meetings of the SSPC where the SSPC members determine) shall be drawn up as 'minutes'. These minutes shall include a record of SSPC member attendance (including the SSPC Chair) together with apologies for absence and shall be submitted for agreement at the next meeting of the SSPC, where any discussion shall be limited to matters of accuracy. Any agreed amendment to the minutes must be formally recorded.

6.7.2 Agreed minutes shall be circulated in accordance with SSPC members' wishes, and, where providing a record of a formal SSPC meeting shall be made available to the public on the NWSSP website and in hard copy or other accessible format on request, in accordance with any legislative requirements, e.g. Data Protection Act, the SSPC's Communication Strategy and Velindre's Welsh Language Scheme.

## **6.8 Confidentiality**

6.8.1 All SSPC members, together with members of any Sub-Committee, Expert Panel or Advisory Group established by or on behalf of the SSPC and SSPC members and/or Health Board/Trust/Special Health Authority officials must respect the confidentiality of all matters considered by the SSPC in private session or set out in documents which are not publicly available. Disclosure of any such matters may only be made with the express permission of the SSPC Chair or relevant Sub-Committee or group, as appropriate, and in accordance with any other requirements set out elsewhere, e.g. in contracts of employment, within the Standards of Behaviour Framework or legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000, etc.

# **7 VALUES AND STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR**

The SSPC must operate within a set of values and standards of behaviour that meets the requirements of the NHS Wales Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework. These values and standards of behaviour will apply to all those conducting business by or on behalf of the SSPC, including SSPC members, Velindre NWSSP officers and others, as appropriate. The Framework adopted by the SSPC will form part of these SOs.

## **7.1 Declaring and Recording Members' Interests**

- 7.1.1 Declaration of interests** – It is a requirement that all SSPC members should declare any personal or business interests they may have which may affect, or be perceived to affect, the conduct of their role as a SSPC member. This includes any interests that may influence or be perceived to influence their judgement in the course of conducting the SSPC’s business. SSPC members must be familiar with the Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework and their statutory duties under the relevant Constitution Regulations. SSPC members must notify the SSPC of any such interests at the time of their appointment, and any further interests as they arise throughout their tenure as SSPC members.
- 7.1.2 SSPC members must also declare any interests held by family members or persons or bodies with which they are connected. The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services will provide advice to the SSPC Chair and the SSPC on what should be considered as an ‘interest’, taking account of the regulatory requirements and any further guidance, e.g. the Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework. If individual SSPC members are in any doubt about what may be considered as an interest, they should seek advice from the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services. However, the onus regarding declaration will reside with the individual SSPC member.
- 7.1.3 Register of interests** – The Managing Director of NWSSP, through the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, will ensure that a Register of Interests is established and maintained as a formal record of interests declared by all SSPC members. The register will include details of all Directorships and other relevant and material interests which have been declared by SSPC members.
- 7.1.4 The register will be held by the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, and will be updated during the year, as appropriate, to record any new interests, or changes to the interests declared by SSPC members. The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services will also arrange an annual review of the register, through which SSPC members will be required to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the register relating to their own interests.
- 7.1.5 In line with the SSPC’s commitment to openness and transparency, the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services must take reasonable steps to ensure that citizens served by the SSPC are made aware of and have access to view the Register of Interests. This will include publication on the NWSSP website.
- 7.1.6 Publication of declared interests in Annual Review** – SSPC members’ directorships of companies or positions in other organisations likely or

possibly seeking to do business with the NHS shall be published in each Shared Services' Annual Review.

## **7.2 Dealing with Members' interests during Shared Services Partnership**

### **Committee meetings**

7.2.1 The SSPC Chair, advised by the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, must ensure that the SSPC's decisions on all matters brought before it are taken in an open, balanced, objective and unbiased manner. In turn, individual board members must demonstrate, through their actions, that their contribution to the SSPC's decision making is based upon the best interests of the NHS in Wales. This is particularly important as there is an inherent tension in a member's role on the SSPC and as a member of the Board of a Health Board, Trust, or Special Health Authority.

7.2.2 Where individual SSPC members identify an interest in relation to any aspect of SSPC business set out in the SSPC's meeting agenda, that member must declare an interest at the start of the SSPC meeting. SSPC members should seek advice from the SSPC Chair, through the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services before the start of the SSPC meeting if they are in any doubt as to whether they should declare an interest at the meeting. All declarations of interest made at a meeting must be recorded in the SSPCs minutes.

7.2.3 It is the responsibility of the SSPC Chair, on behalf of the SSPC, to determine the action to be taken in response to a declaration of interest, taking account of any regulatory requirements or directions given by the Welsh Ministers. The range of possible actions may include determination that:

- i the declaration is formally noted and recorded, but that the SSPC member should participate fully in the SSPC's discussion and decision, including voting
- ii the declaration is formally noted and recorded, and the SSPC member participates fully in the SSPC's discussion, but takes no part in the SSPC's decision;
- iii the declaration is formally noted and recorded, and the SSPC member takes no part in the SSPC discussion or decision;
- iv the declaration is formally noted and recorded, and the SSPC member is excluded for that part of the meeting when the matter is being discussed. A SSPC member must be excluded, where that member has a direct or indirect financial interest in a matter being considered by the SSPC.

7.2.4 In extreme cases, it may be necessary for the member to reflect on whether their position as a SSPC member is compatible with an identified conflict of interest.

7.2.5 Where the SSPC Chair is the individual declaring an interest, any decision on the action to be taken shall be made by the Vice Chair, on behalf of the SSPC.

7.2.6 In all cases the decision of the SSPC Chair (or the Vice Chair in the case of an interest declared by the SSPC Chair) is binding on all SSPC members. The SSPC Chair should take advice from the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services when determining the action to take in response to declared interests; taking care to ensure their exercise of judgement is consistently applied.

7.2.7 **Members with pecuniary (financial) interests** – Where a SSPC member, or any person they are connected with<sup>1</sup> has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter being considered by the SSPC including a contract or proposed contract, that member must not take part in the consideration or discussion of that matter or vote on any question related to it. The SSPC may determine that the SSPC member concerned shall be excluded from that part of the meeting.

7.2.8 The Membership Regulations define ‘direct’ and ‘indirect’ pecuniary interests, and these definitions always apply when determining whether a member has an interest. These SSPC SOs must be interpreted in accordance with these definitions.

7.2.9 **Members with Professional Interests** – During the conduct of a SSPC meeting, an individual SSPC member may establish a clear conflict of interest between their role as a SSPC member and that of their professional role outside of the SSPC. In any such circumstance, the SSPC shall take action that is proportionate to the nature of the conflict, taking account of the advice provided by the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services.

### 7.3 Dealing with Officers’ Interests

7.3.1 The SSPC must ensure that the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, on behalf of the Managing Director of NWSSP, establishes and maintains a system for the declaration, recording and handling of

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<sup>1</sup> In the case of persons who are married to each other or in a civil partnership with each other or who are living together as if married or civil partners, the interest of one person shall, if known to the other, be deemed for the purpose of this Standing Order to be also an interest of the other

NWSSP officers' interests in accordance with the Standards of Behaviour Framework.

#### **7.4 Reviewing How Interests are Handled**

7.4.1 The SSPC's Audit Committee will review and report to the Health Boards, Trusts, and Special Health Authority upon the adequacy of the arrangements for declaring, registering and handling interests at least annually.

#### **7.5 Dealing with Offers of Gifts<sup>2</sup> and Hospitality**

7.5.1 The Committee will adopt the Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework Policy of Velindre University NHS Trust, which prohibits SSPC members and NWSSP officers from receiving gifts, hospitality or benefits in kind from a third party which may reasonably give rise to suspicion of conflict between their official duty and their private interest or may reasonably be seen to compromise their personal integrity in any way.

7.5.2 Gifts, benefits, or hospitality must never be solicited. Any SSPC member or NWSSP officer who is offered a gift, benefit or hospitality which may or may be seen to compromise their position must refuse to accept it. This may in certain circumstances also include a gift, benefit or hospitality offered to a family member of a SSPC member or NWSSP officer. Compliance with the Velindre University NHS Trust Standards of Behaviour Framework is mandatory for all Trust employees.

7.5.3 In determining whether any offer of a gift or hospitality should be accepted, an individual must make an active assessment of the circumstances within which the offer is being made, seeking advice from the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services as appropriate. In assessing whether an offer should be accepted, individuals must take into account:

- **Relationship:** Contacts which are made for the purpose of information gathering are generally less likely to cause problems than those which could result in a contractual relationship, in which case, accepting a gift or hospitality could cause embarrassment or be seen as giving rise to an obligation;
- **Legitimate Interest:** Regard should be paid to the reason for the contact on both sides and whether it is a contact that is likely to benefit the SSPC;

- **Value:** Gifts and benefits of a trivial or inexpensive seasonal nature, e.g. diaries/calendars, are more likely to be acceptable and can be distinguished from more substantial offers. Similarly, hospitality in the form of a working lunch would not be treated in the same way as more expensive social functions, travel, or accommodation (although in some circumstances these may also be accepted);
- **Frequency:** Acceptance of frequent or regular invitations particularly from the same source would breach the required standards of conduct. Isolated acceptance of, for example, meals, tickets to public, sporting, cultural or social events would only be acceptable if attendance is justifiable in that it benefits the SSPC; and
- **Reputation:** If the body concerned is known to be under investigation by or has been publicly criticised by a public body, regulators or inspectors, acceptance of a gift or hospitality might be seen as supporting the body or affecting in some way the investigation or negotiations and it must always be declined.

7.5.4 A distinction shall be drawn between items offered as hospitality and items offered in substitution for fees for broadcasts, speeches, lectures, or other work done. There may be circumstances where the latter may be accepted if they can be used for official purposes.

## 7.6 Register of Gifts and Hospitality

7.6.1 The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, on behalf of the SSPC Chair, will maintain a Register of Gifts and Hospitality to record offers of gifts and hospitality made to SSPC members. NWSSP Director of Finance and Corporate Services together with Heads of Service, will adopt the Velindre University NHS Trust Policy on Gifts and Hospitality in relation to NWSSP officers working within their areas.

7.6.2 Every SSPC member and NWSSP officer has a personal responsibility to volunteer information in relation to offers of gifts and hospitality made in their capacity as SSPC members, including those offers that have been refused. The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, on behalf of the SSPC Chair and Managing Director of NWSSP, will ensure the incidence and patterns of offers and receipt of gifts and hospitality is kept under active review, taking appropriate action where necessary.

7.6.3 When determining what should be included in the register, NWSSP Officers must apply the principles as set out in the Velindre University NHS Trust Policy on gifts and hospitality.

7.6.4 SSPC members and NWSSP officers may accept the occasional offer of modest and proportionate hospitality but in doing so must consider whether the following conditions are met:

- acceptance would further the aims of the SSPC;
- the level of hospitality is reasonable in the circumstances;
- it has been openly offered; and,
- it could not be construed as any form of inducement and will not put the individual under any obligation to those offering it.

7.6.5 The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services will arrange for a full report of all offers of Gifts and Hospitality recorded by the SSPC to be submitted to Velindre's Audit Committee at least annually. The Audit Committee will then review and report to the SSPC and the Velindre Trust Board upon the adequacy of the SSPC's arrangements for dealing with offers of gifts and hospitality.

7.6.6 Detailed arrangements for the handling of gifts and hospitality are set out within the Velindre University NHS Trust Standards of Behaviour Framework and its policy on Gifts and Hospitality.

## **8 SIGNING AND SEALING DOCUMENTS**

The Common Seal of NWSSP's host is primarily used to seal legal documents such as transfers of land, lease agreements and other important/key contracts. The seal may only be fixed to a document if the Board has determined it shall be sealed, or if a transaction to which the document relates has been approved by the Board.

Where the Velindre Trust Board has decided that a NWSSP document shall be sealed it shall be fixed in the presence of the Chair or Vice Chair (or other authorised Independent Member) and the Chief Executive (or another authorised individual) both of whom witness the seal.

### **8.1 Register of Sealing**

8.1.1 The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services shall keep a register that records the sealing of every NWSSP document. Each entry must be signed by the person who approved and authorised the document and who witnessed the seal. A report of all sealing shall be presented to the SSPC at least biennially.

### **8.2 Signature of Documents**

8.2.1 Where a signature is required for any document connected with legal proceedings involving the NWSSP, it shall normally be signed by the Managing Director, except where the SSPC has been otherwise directed to allow or require another person to provide a signature.

8.2.2 The Managing Director or nominated officers may be authorised by the SSPC to sign on behalf of the NWSSP any agreement or other document (not required to be executed as a deed) where the subject matter has been approved by the SSPC.

### **8.3 Custody of Seal**

8.3.1 The Common Seal of NWSSP's host is kept securely by the Board [Secretary.at](#) Velindre University NHS Trust.

## **9 GAINING ASSURANCE ON THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

The SSPC shall set out explicitly, within a Risk and Assurance Framework, how it will gain assurance, and how it will in turn provide assurance to Velindre on the conduct of SSPC business, its governance, and the effective management of risks in pursuance of its aims and objectives. It shall set out clearly the various sources of assurance, and where and when that assurance will be provided, in accordance with any requirements determined by the Welsh Ministers.

The SSPC shall ensure that its assurance arrangements are operating effectively, advised by Velindre's Audit Committee.

### **9.1 The Role of Internal Audit in Providing Independent Internal assurance**

9.1.1 The SSPC shall ensure the effective provision of an independent internal audit function as a key source of its internal assurance arrangements, in accordance with NHS Wales Internal Auditing Standards and any other requirements determined by the Welsh Ministers.

9.1.2 The SSPC shall set out the relationship between the Head of Internal Audit (HIA), the Audit Committee (or equivalent) and the SSPC. It shall:

- Approve the Internal Audit Charter (incorporating the definition of internal audit) and adopt the Internal Auditing Standards (incorporating the code of ethics);
- Ensure the HIA communicates and interacts directly with the Audit Committee facilitating direct and unrestricted access;
- Require Internal Audit to confirm its independence annually; and

- Ensure that the Head of Internal Audit reports periodically to the SSPC on its activities, including its purpose, authority, responsibility and performance. Such reporting will include governance issues and significant risk exposures.

## **9.2 Reviewing the Performance of the , its Sub-Committees, Expert Panel and Advisory Groups**

9.2.1 The SSPC shall introduce a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of its own operations and performance and that of its Sub-Committees, Expert Panel, and any other Advisory Groups. Where appropriate, the SSPC may determine that such evaluation may be independently facilitated.

9.2.2 Each Sub-Committee and, where appropriate, Expert Panel and any other Advisory Group must also submit an annual report to the SSPC through the Chair within 1 month of the end of the reporting year setting out its activities during the year and including the review of its performance and that of any sub-groups it has established.

9.2.3 The SSPC shall use the information from this evaluation activity to inform:

- the ongoing development of its governance arrangements, including its structures and processes;
- its Committee Development Programme, as part of an overall Organisation Development framework; and
- inform its Partners through its annual report of its alignment with the Assembly Government's Citizen Centred Governance Principles, completed as part of its ongoing review and reporting arrangements.

## **9.3 External Assurance**

9.3.1 The SSPC shall ensure it develops effective working arrangements and relationships with those bodies that have a role in providing independent, external assurance to the public and others on its operations, e.g. Audit Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

9.3.2 The SSPC may be assured, from the work carried out by external audit and others, on the adequacy of its own assurance framework, but that external assurance activity shall not form part of, or replace its own internal assurance arrangements, except in relation to any additional work that the SSPC itself may commission specifically for that purpose.

9.3.3 The SSPC shall keep under review and ensure that, where appropriate, the SSPC implements any recommendations relevant to its business

made by the Welsh Government Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, or other appropriate bodies.

9.3.4 The SSPC shall provide the Auditor General for Wales with assistance, information, and explanation which the Auditor General thinks necessary for the discharge of their statutory powers and responsibilities under section 145 of and paragraph 17 to Annexe 8 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (C.42).

## **10 DEMONSTRATING ACCOUNTABILITY**

10.1.1 Taking account of the arrangements set out within these SSPC SOs, the SSPC shall demonstrate to its Partners, citizens, and other stakeholders and to Velindre, as host, a clear framework of accountability within which it:

- conducts its business internally;
- works collaboratively with NHS colleagues, partners, service providers and others; and
- responds to the views and representations made by those who represent the interests of the citizens it serves and its own NWSSP officers.

10.1.2 The SSPC shall also facilitate effective scrutiny of its operations through the publication of regular reports on activity and performance, including publication of an Annual Report of the SSPC.

10.1.3 The SSPC shall also facilitate effective scrutiny of NWSSP's operations through the publication of regular reports on activity and performance, including publication of an Annual Review document providing a summary of annual performance.

10.1.4 The SSPC shall ensure that within the NWSSP staff, individuals at all levels are supported in their roles, and held to account for their personal performance through effective performance management arrangements.

## **11 SUPPORT FOR THE SSPC**

11.1.1 The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services, on behalf of the SSPC Chair, will ensure that the SSPC is properly equipped to carry out its role by:

- overseeing the process of nomination and appointment to the SSPC;
- co-ordinating and facilitating appropriate induction and organisational development activity;

- ensuring the provision of governance advice and support to the SSPC Chair on the conduct of its business and its relationship with its partners, Velindre, as the host and others;
- ensuring the provision of secretariat support for SSPC meetings;
- ensuring that the SSPC receives the information it needs on a timely basis;
- ensuring strong links to communities/groups;
- ensuring an effective relationship between the SSPC and Velindre as its host; and
- facilitating effective reporting to each Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority

thereby enabling each Health Board, Trust, and Special Health Authority's Board to gain assurance on the conduct of business carried out by SSPC on their behalf.

## **12 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

- 12.1.1 These SSPC SOs shall be reviewed annually by the SSPC, which shall report any proposed amendments to the Velindre Trust Board for consideration. The requirement for review extends to all documents having the effect as if incorporated in SSPC SOs, including the Equality Integrated Impact Assessment.

**MODEL SCHEME OF RESERVATION  
AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

Standing Orders,  
Reservation and  
Delegation of  
Powers for the  
Shared Services  
Partnership  
Committee  
Annexe 4: Shared  
Services  
Partnership  
Committee Orders  
(SSPC SOs)  
Status: Final

## **MODEL SCHEME OF RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

As set out in Standing Order 2, the SSPC - subject to any directions that may be made by the Welsh Ministers - shall make appropriate arrangements for certain functions to be carried out on its behalf so that the day-to-day business of the NWSSP may be carried out effectively, and in a manner that secures the achievement of the organisation's aims and objectives. The SSPC may delegate functions to:

- i A Committee, e.g., Audit Committee;
- ii A Sub-Committee,
- iii A Joint-Committee or Joint Sub-Committee, e.g., with other Health Boards established to take forward matters relating to specialist services; and
- iv Officers of NWSSP (who may, subject to the SSPC's authority, delegate further to other officers and, where appropriate, other third parties, e.g. shared/support services, through a formal scheme of delegation)

and in doing so, must set out clearly the terms and conditions upon which any delegation is being made. These terms and conditions must include a requirement that the SSPC is notified of any matters that may affect the operation and/or reputation of NWSSP.

The Board's determination of those matters that it will retain, and those that will be delegated to others are set out in the following:

- Annexe of matters reserved to SSPC;
- Scheme of delegation to Committees and others; and
- Scheme of delegation to officer.

all of which form part of the SSPC's SOs.

## **DECIDING WHAT TO RETAIN AND WHAT TO DELEGATE: GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The SSPC will take full account of the following principles when determining those matters that it reserves, and those which it will delegate to others to carry out on its behalf:

- Everything is retained by the SSPC unless it is specifically delegated in accordance with the requirements set out in SOs or SFIs.
- The SSPC must retain that which it is required to retain (whether by statute or as determined by the Welsh Ministers) as well as that which it considers is essential to enable it to fulfil its role in setting the organisation's direction, equipping the organisation to deliver and ensuring achievement of its aims and objectives through effective performance management.
- Any decision made to delegate functions must be based upon an assessment of the capacity and capability of those to whom it is delegating responsibility.
- The SSPC must ensure that those to whom it has delegated powers (whether a Committee, partnership or individuals) remain equipped to deliver on those responsibilities through an ongoing programme of personal, professional and organisational development.
- The SSPC must take appropriate action to assure itself that all matters delegated are effectively carried out.
- The framework of delegation will be kept under active review and, where appropriate, will be revised to take account of organisational developments, review findings or other changes.
- Except where explicitly set out, the SSPC retains the right to decide upon any matter for which it has responsibility, even if that matter has been delegated to others.
- The SSPC may delegate authority to act, but retains overall responsibility and accountability.
- When delegating powers, the SSPC will determine whether (and the extent to which) those to whom it is delegating will, in turn, have powers to further delegate those functions to others.

## **HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS: WHO DOES WHAT**

The (SSPC)

The SSPC will formally agree, review and, where appropriate revise Annexes of reservation and delegation of powers in accordance with the guiding principles set out earlier.

The Managing Director

The Managing Director will propose a Scheme of Delegation to officers, setting out the functions they will perform personally, and which functions will be delegated to other officers. The SSPC must formally agree this scheme.

In preparing the scheme of delegation to officers, the Managing Director will take account of:

- The guiding principles set out earlier (including any specific statutory responsibilities designated to individual roles);
- Their personal responsibility and accountability to the Chief Executive, NHS Wales in relation to their role as designated Accountable Officer; and
- Associated arrangements for the delegation of financial authority to equip officers to deliver on their delegated responsibilities (and set out in SFIs).

The Managing Director may re-assume any of the powers they have delegated to others at any time.

### **Board Secretary Governance Support/The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services**

The Board Secretary Governance Support/the NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services will support the SSPC in its handling of reservations and delegations by ensuring that:

- A proposed Annexe of matters reserved for decision by the SSPC is presented to the SSPC for its formal agreement;
- Effective arrangements are in place for the delegation of NWSSP's functions within the organisation and to others, as appropriate; and
- Arrangements for reservation and delegation are kept under review and presented to the SSPC, Audit Committee and Velindre University NHS Trust Board for revision and approval, as appropriate.

## **The Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee for NWSSP**

The Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee for NWSSP will provide assurance to the SSPC and Velindre University NHS Trust Board of the effectiveness of its arrangements for handling reservations and delegations.

Individuals to whom powers have been delegated will be personally responsible for:

- Equipping themselves to deliver on any matter delegated to them, through the conduct of appropriate training and development activity; and
- Exercising any powers delegated to them in a manner that accords with the Velindre University NHS Trust's values and standards of behaviour.

Where an individual does not feel that they are equipped to deliver on a matter delegated to them, they must notify the Board Secretary providing governance support to the SSPC of their concern, as soon as possible, so that an appropriate and timely decision may be made on the matter.

In the absence of an officer to whom powers have been delegated, those powers will normally be exercised by the individual to whom that officer reports, unless the SSPC has set out alternative arrangements.

## **SCOPE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

The Scheme of Delegation to officers referred to here shows only the "top level" of delegation within NWSSP. The Scheme is to be used in conjunction with the system of control and other established procedures within NWSSP.

## SECTION 1

### ANNEXE OF MATTERS RESERVED TO THE SSPC<sup>3</sup>

SSPC		AREA	DECISIONS RESERVED TO THE SSPC
1	FULL	GENERAL	The SSPC may determine any matter for which it has statutory or delegated authority, in accordance with NWSSP SOs.
2	FULL	GENERAL	The SSPC must determine any matter that will be reserved to the whole SSPC in accordance with statutory and Welsh Government guidance.
3	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Adopt the standards of governance and performance (including the quality and safety of healthcare, and the patient experience) to be met by the SSPC, including standards/requirements determined by professional bodies/others, e.g., Royal Colleges.
4	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve, vary, and amend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NWSSP SOs ;</li> <li>▪ NWSSP SFIs;</li> <li>▪ Annexe of matters reserved to the SSPC;</li> <li>▪ Scheme of delegation to SSPC others; and</li> <li>▪ Scheme of delegation to officers.</li> </ul> In accordance with any directions set by the Welsh Ministers.

<sup>3</sup> Any decision to reserve a matter, and the manner in which that retained responsibility is carried out will be in accordance with any regulatory and/or Welsh Government requirements

5	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve the SSPC Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework, including NWSSP's mission statement.
6	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve the SSPC framework for performance management, risk, and assurance.
7	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve the introduction or discontinuance of any significant activity or operation. Any activity or operation shall be regarded as significant if the SSPC determines it so based upon its contribution/impact on the achievement of the SSPC's aims, objectives and priorities.
8	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Ratify any urgent decisions taken by the Chair and the Managing Director in accordance with NWSSP Standing Order requirements.
9	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Ratify in public session any instances of failure to comply with NWSSP SOs.
10	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve procedures for dealing with complaints and incidents.
11	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve individual compensation payments in line with NWSSP SFIs.
12	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve individual cases for the write-off of losses or making of special payments above the limits of delegation to the Managing Director and officers.
13	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve proposals for action on litigation on behalf of the NWSSP.
14	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Approve the appointment, appraisal, discipline, and dismissal of the Management Team and any other SLG level appointments, e.g., the Committee Secretary.

15	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Require, receive, and determine action in response to the declaration of NWSSP members' interests, in accordance with advice received, e.g. from Audit Committee.
14	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Approve, [arrange the] review, and revise the NWSSP's top level organisation structure and SSPC policies.
15	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Appoint, [arrange the] review, revise and dismiss SSPC sub-Committees, including any joint sub-Committees directly accountable to the SSPC.
16	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Appoint, equip, review and (where appropriate) dismiss the Chair and members of any sub-Committee, joint sub-Committee or Group set up by the SSPC.
17	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Appoint, equip, review and (where appropriate) dismiss individuals appointed to represent the SSPC on outside bodies and groups.
18	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Approve the terms of reference and reporting arrangements of all sub-Committees, joint sub-Committees and groups established by the SSPC.
19	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Determine the SSPCs strategic aims, objectives, and priorities.
20	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the SSPCs Integrated Medium Term Plan, including the balanced Medium Term Financial Plan.
21	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the SSPCs Risk Management Strategy, including risk appetite, risk tolerance levels and treatment plans and managing risks in relation to public confidence.
22	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the SSPCs citizen engagement and involvement strategy, including communication.

23	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the SSPCs Committee's partnership and stakeholder engagement and involvement strategies.
24	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve NWSSP's key strategies and programmes related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People and Organisational Development</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure, including IM &amp;T, Estates and Capital (including major capital investment and disposal plans)</li> <li>▪ Primary Care</li> <li>▪ Communications &amp; Engagement</li> </ul>
25	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the SSPCs budget and financial framework (including overall distribution of year end surplus/deficits including risk sharing agreements).
26	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve individual contracts (other than NHS contracts) above the limit delegated to the Managing Director set out in the NWSSP SFIs.
27	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Approve the SSPC's audit and assurance arrangements.
28	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive reports from the SSPC's NWSSP Directors on progress and performance in the delivery of the SSPC's strategic aims, objectives and priorities and approve action required, including improvement plans.

29	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive assurance reports from the SSPC's Sub-Committees, groups and other internal sources on the Joint Committee's performance and approve action required, including improvement plans.
30	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive reports on the SSPC's performance produced by external regulators and inspectors (including, e.g., Audit Wales, HIW, etc) that raise issue or concerns impacting on the NWSSP's ability to achieve its aims and objectives and approve action required, including improvement plans, taking account of the advice of SSPC sub-Committees (as appropriate).
31	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive the annual opinion of the SSPC's Head of Internal Audit and approve action required, including improvement plans.
32	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive the annual management letter from the SSPC's external auditor and approve action required, including improvement plans.
33	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive the annual opinion on the SSPC's performance against the Health and Care Standards for Wales and approve action required, including improvement plans.
34	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Approval of the Risk and Assurance Framework.
35	FULL	REPORTING	Approve the SSPC's Reporting Arrangements, including reports on activity and performance locally, to citizens, partners, and stakeholders and nationally to the Welsh Government.
36	FULL	REPORTING	Receive, approve, and ensure the publication of SSPC reports, including its Annual Report.

## SECTION 2

### ANNEXE OF DELEGATION OF POWERS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHERS

Under Standing Order Section 2 it provides that the SSPC may delegate powers to SSPC Committees, Sub-Committees, and others. In doing so, the SSPC has formally determined:

- the composition, terms of reference and reporting requirements in respect of any such Committees; and
- the governance arrangements, terms and conditions and reporting requirements in respect of any delegation to others;

in accordance with any regulatory requirements and any directions set by the Welsh Ministers.

Subject to Clauses within the Trust Standing Orders and to such directions as may be given by the Welsh Government, the SSPC may appoint ad-hoc committees of the NWSSP, whose membership can be wholly or partly of the Chairman and Directors of the NWSSP, or persons who are not Directors of the NWSSP.

A committee appointed under this regulation may subject to such directions as may be given by the Welsh Government or the SSPC appoint ad hoc Sub-Committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the committee (whether or not they are Directors of NWSSP) or wholly of persons who are not members of the committee (whether or not they include Directors of the NWSSP).

The Standing Orders, with appropriate alterations, apply to a committee or Sub-Committee and to a committee or Sub-Committee as they apply to the SSPC and apply to a member of such committee or sub-committee (whether or not they are a Director of the NWSSP) as it applies to a Director of the NWSSP.

The SSPC may make, vary and revoke Standing Orders relating to the quorum, proceedings, and place of meetings of a committee or Sub-Committee but, this shall be carried out in accordance with the identified procedures laid down for these changes as outlined in these Standing Orders.

The scope of the powers delegated, together with the requirements set by the SSPC in relation to the exercise of those powers are as set out in i) Committee Terms of Reference, and ii) Formal arrangements for the delegation of powers to others. Collectively, these documents form the SSPC's Scheme of Delegation to Committees.

The SSPC has delegated a range of its powers to the following Sub-Committees and others:

- Welsh Risk Pool Committee
- Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee for NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Summary of matters delegated to Sub-Committees:

#### **Sub-Committee: Welsh Risk Pool Committee**

##### **Delegated Matters:**

The Sub-Committee will:

1. To approve the payment and reimbursement of claims and impose penalties in accordance with the WRPS Claims Reimbursement Procedure.
2. To enact the risk sharing arrangements as agreed by the NWSSP.
3. To receive and consider the annual statements of account.
4. To receive and consider the annual assessment reports and to approve recommendations for any necessary action.
5. To receive and consider the outcome of claims reviews and to approve recommendations for any necessary action.
6. To agree on a communication strategy across NHS Wales to ensure that learning from events is captured and communicated appropriately.
7. To consider advice and guidance on matters of indemnity which are novel, contentious or expose NHS Wales to significant risk.
8. To request claims reviews where the WRPC considers appropriate in order that lessons can be learnt on an All-Wales basis.
9. To ensure that arrangements are in place to enable the reporting of key issues and trends via the National Quality and Safety Forum.

## Sub-Committee: Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee for NWSSP

### Delegated Matters:

The Committee will:

1. Approve any variation to, review annually and monitor compliance with Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions.
2. Review and report to the SSPC upon the adequacy of the arrangements for declaring, registering, and handling interests at least annually.
3. Receive a full report of all offers of Gifts and Hospitality recorded by the NWSSP and review the adequacy of NWSSP's arrangements for dealing with offers of gifts and hospitality.
4. Advise the Velindre Trust Board on the adequacy that its assurance arrangements are operating effectively.
5. Review and approve Internal Audit Strategy, Charter, operational plan, programme of work.
6. Review effectiveness of internal audit.
7. Review policies and procedures in respect of fraud and bribery set out in the Welsh Government Directions and to receive the Counter Fraud Annual Report and Plan.
8. Approve write-off of losses or making of special payments within delegated limits determined by the Welsh Ministers.
9. Review the establishment and maintenance of an effective system of good governance, risk management and internal control across the whole of the organisation's activities.
10. Review the assurance gained through the development of a Risk and Assurance Framework and to consider gaps in control and gaps in assurance and report results to the Board.
11. Review the adequacy of all risk and control related disclosure statements, including the Annual Governance Statement.
12. Receive quarterly assurance of Post Payment Verification (PPV) reports.

The scope of the powers delegated, together with the requirements set by the SSPC in relation to the exercise of those powers are as set out in i) Committee terms of reference, and ii) formal arrangements for the delegation of powers to others. Collectively, these documents form the NWSSP's Scheme of Delegation to Committees.

## SECTION 3

### ANNEXE OF SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO NWSSP DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The SSPC SOs, alongside the Trust SOs and the SFIs specify certain key responsibilities of the Chief Executive Velindre University NHS Trust, the Managing Director of NWSSP, Directors, Heads of Service and other officers. The Chief Executive and Managing Director of NWSSP Job Descriptions, together with their Accountable Officer Memorandums set out their specific responsibilities, and the individual job descriptions determined for Directors and Heads of Service level posts also define in detail the specific responsibilities assigned to those post holders. These documents, together with the Annexe of additional delegations below and the associated financial delegations set out in the Velindre Trust SFIs form the basis of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

#### Standing Orders – List of Delegated Matters

SO REF	DELEGATED MATTER	DELEGATED TO	OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
<b>GENERAL</b>			
	Non-compliance and variation of Standing Orders	Assistant Director of Corporate Services	Board Secretary Support
	Final interpretation of Standing Orders	Chair	
	Responsibility for providing advice to the Board on all aspects of governance/committee services	Assistant Director of Corporate Services	
<b>CHAIR'S ACTION ON URGENT MATTERS</b>			
SO 2.1	Use of Chair's Action and onward reporting to	Chair & Managing Director	Board Secretary Support
<b>DELEGATION TO OFFICERS</b>			
SO 2.3.1	Compilation of Scheme of Delegation for functions	Managing Director	Assistant Director of Corporate

SO 2.3.1	delegated to Managing Director for consideration and approval by the SSPC  Delegation of functions within Directorates/departments/localities in line with the framework established by the Managing Director and agreed by the SSPC	Directors	Services  Directors
<b>WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP</b>			
SO 5.0.2	Identification and engagement with all key partners and regular review of effectiveness	Chair	Deputy Director of Finance and Corporate Services
<b>MEETINGS</b>			
SO 6.2	Development of the Annual Plan of SSPC Business	Chair/Managing Director	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
SO 6.3	Call meetings of the SSPC	Chair/Managing Director	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
SO 6.4	Preparation of SSPC meetings	Chair/Managing Director	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
SO 6.5	Report decisions made & review NWSSP business conducted in private session	Chair	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
SO 6.5	Chair SSPC meetings & associated responsibilities	Chair	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
SO 6.6	A record of proceedings of SSPC meetings	Chair (Vice Chair in Chair's absence)	Chair (Vice Chair in Chair's absence) / Assistant Director of Corporate

<b>VALUES AND STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR</b>			
SO 7.1	Establishment, maintenance, and annual review of a Register of Interests declared by all SSPC members	Managing Director	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
SO 7.6	Establishment, maintenance and annual review of a Register of Gifts and Hospitality in respect of SSPC business for all SSPC members	Chair	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
SO 7.6	Establishment maintenance and annual review of a Register of Gifts and Hospitality for NWSSP Officers	Managing Director/Directors	Assistant Director of Corporate Services
<b>SIGNING AND SEALING DOCUMENTS</b>			
SO 8.1	Establishment, maintenance, and bi-annual reporting of a Register of Sealings undertaken by the Velindre NHS Trust Board for NWSSP business	Managing Director	Assistant Director of Corporate Services

This scheme only relates to matters delegated by the Velindre Board and the SSPC to the Managing Director and Directors, together with certain other specific matters referred to in SFIs. Each Director is responsible for delegation within their department. They shall produce a scheme of delegation for matters within their department, which shall also set out how departmental budget and procedures for approval of expenditure are delegated.

## Annexe of Additional Delegations

Delegated matter	High level delegation	Further Delegation Allowable?	Control Documents required to be in place prior to further delegation of matters
Management of budgets	Managing Director of NWSSP/ NWSSP Director of Finance	Yes	Financial delegations set out in Sections 4-6. Further delegations subject to authorisation matrix.
Management of cash and bank accounts	Trust Director of Finance	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Financial policies & procedures
Approval of petty cash	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Financial policies & procedures
Engagement of staff within funded establishment	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Engagement of staff outside funded establishment	Managing Director of Shared Services	Nominated deputy	In absence of Director of Shared Services
Staff re-grading and awarding of incremental points	NWSSP Director of P&OD	Yes	Written authority to suitably qualified HR staff
Approval of overtime	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval of annual leave	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval of compassionate leave	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval of maternity and paternity leave	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval of carers leave	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures

Approval of leave without pay	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Extension of sick leave on full or 1/2 pay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors</li> <li>• Other staff</li> </ul>	Managing Director of NWSSP NWSSP Directors	No Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval of study leave < £2k	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval of study leave > £2k	Managing Director NWSSP/ NWSSP Director of W&OD	No	
Approval of relocation costs	NWSSP Director of W&OD	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval of lease cars & phones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWSSP Directors</li> <li>• Other staff</li> </ul>	Managing Director of NWSSP NWSSP Finance Director	No No	
Approval of redundancy, early retirement, and ill-health retirement	Managing Director of NWSSP	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Dismissal of staff	Managing Director of NWSSP and NWSSP Director of P&OD	Yes	Authorisation matrix. HR policies & procedures
Approval to procure goods and services within budget	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Standing financial instructions. Authorisation matrix. Procurement & finance policies & procedures.
Approval to procure goods and services outside of budget that would result in a budgetary overspend	Managing Director of NWSSP	Nominated deputy	In absence of the Managing Director of NWSSP
Approval to commission services from other NHS bodies	Managing Director of NWSSP	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Commissioning policies & procedures

Approval to commission services from voluntary sector	Managing Director of NWSSP	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Commissioning policies & procedures
Approval to commission services from private and independent providers	Managing Director of NWSSP	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Commissioning policies & procedures
Approval to enter into pooled budget arrangements under section 33 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006	Managing Director of NWSSP	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Commissioning policies & procedures
Management and Control of Stocks	NWSSP Director (Head of Procurement Services)/ NWSSP Director of Finance	Yes	Authorisation matrix
Work in relation to counter fraud and corruption	Trust Director of Finance/ NWSSP Director of Finance	Yes	Authorisation matrix Fraud & Corruption policies and procedures
Authorisation of sponsorship	Managing Director of NWSSP	No	Sponsorship policies & procedures
Approval of research projects	Managing Director of NWSSP	Yes	Research policies & procedures
Management of complaints	NWSSP Director of Finance	No	Complaints policies & procedures
Provision of information to the press, public and other external enquiries	NWSSP Directors / Trust Board Secretary	Yes	Communication policies & procedures
Approval for use of charitable funds	Trust Chief Executive	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Financial policies & procedures
Approval to condemn and dispose of equipment	NWSSP Directors / Heads of Service	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Disposal policies & procedures
Approval of losses and compensation (except for personal effects)	Managing Director of NWSSP	No	Within authorised limits set by WG.

Approval of compensation for staff and patients personal effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to £1000</li> <li>£1,000 &gt; £10,000</li> <li>£10,000 &gt; £50,000</li> <li>Over £50,000</li> </ul>	Trust Small Claims Panel Managing Director of NWSSP Approval by WG	No No No No	
Approval of clinical negligence and personal injury claims	Managing Director of NWSSP / NWSSP Director of Finance	Yes	Authorisation matrix and within limits set by WAG.
Approval of capital expenditure	Managing Director of NWSSP/ NWSSP Director of Finance	Yes	High level delegation set out in Section 4. Further delegations subject to authorisation matrix
Approval to engage external building and other professional contractors	NWSSP Director of Finance	Yes	Authorisation matrix. Capital policies & procedures.
Approval to seek professional advice and ensure the implementation of any statutory and regulatory requirements	Managing Director of NWSSP	Yes	Financial delegations set out in Section 4. Further delegations subject to authorisation matrix
The negotiation and agreement of service contracts / long term agreements	Managing Director of NWSSP & NWSSP Director of Finance	Yes	Further delegations (re: negotiation only – not agreement) to Heads of Service.

This scheme only relates to matters delegated by the SSPC to the Managing Director of NWSSP and the NWSSP Directors and Heads of Service, together with certain other specific matters referred to in SFIs. Each NWSSP Director and Head of Service is responsible for delegation within their department. They shall produce a Scheme of Delegation for matters within their department, which shall also set out how departmental budget and procedures for approval of expenditure are delegated.

## SECTION 4

### ANNEXE OF DELEGATION OF BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITY

Section 5 of the Velindre University NHS Trust Standing Financial Instructions detail the requirements for Budgetary Control, including:

- 5.1 Budget Setting
- 5.2 Budgetary Delegation
- 5.3 Budgetary Control and Reporting

Paragraphs 5.2.1 to 5.2.4 detail the specific requirements on Budgetary Delegation. In line with 5.2.1 the Income and Expenditure budgetary responsibility for the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership has been delegated to the Managing Director of NWSSP.

The Managing Director of NWSSP and other NWSSP Directors will, in turn, delegate budgetary responsibility to other Heads of Service and managers. The detailed Annexe of this second-tier delegation will be reviewed, revised and reapproved on an annual basis by the Managing Director of NWSSP and the Senior Leadership Group as part of the annual Financial Strategy and Budget Setting process. Within the budgetary delegation there are delegated powers of budget virement:

- between Divisions must be approved by the Managing Director of NWSSP.
- between budgets within the same Division must be approved by the relevant Director / Heads of Service.
- between staff and non-staff within the same budget must be approved by the Budget Holder.

These delegated powers of virement, from the Managing Director of NWSSP to Heads of Service and Budget Holders, assume that the NWSSP is achieving its financial targets and can be revised, in year, by the Managing Director of NWSSP in the light of adverse financial performance. Budget virements within Divisions can be authorised by the Head of Service and Director of Finance up to the limit of £60,000.

## SECTION 5

### NHS WALES SHARED SERVICES PARTNERSHIP SCHEME OF BUDGETARY DELEGATION

Financial Limits (All Values exclude VAT)	Revenue	Capital	All Wales Contracts**
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Velindre:</b>			
Trust Board	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
<b>NWSSP (excluding all Wales Procurement Contracts):</b>			
Managing Director and NWSSP Chair	250	1m	1m
Managing Director of NWSSP	200	500	500
Director of Finance and Corporate Services	100	100	100
Director of People and Organisational Development	50	50	N/A
Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics	50	50	N/A
Service Directors/Heads of Services (within own area)	25	0	N/A
Service Directors/Heads of Service's Nominee (within Agreed area)	10	10	N/A
Heads of Function (within own area)	7.5	7.5	N/A
Deputy Director of Finance and Corporate Services	25	25	N/A
Head of Finance and Corporate Services	10	10	N/A
Other Senior Finance Staff	5	0	N/A
Delegated Budget Holders (within own area) Level 1	5	0	N/A
Delegated Budget Holders (within own area) Level 2	1	0	N/A
<b>Notes:</b>			
**Represents contracts where expenditure is directly incurred by NWSSP in respect of All Wales Contracts where the expenditure is either recharged to NHS Wales organisations or the expenditure is incurred for goods/services that will be directly consumed by NHS Wales organisations. All contracts >£1m require prior Welsh Government approval.			

### Welsh Infected Blood Support Services Limits

Scheme Designation	Payments to Claimants (£)
Managing Director/NWSSP Chair	Over 100k
Managing Director	Up to 100k
Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Up to 80k
Director of Planning, Performance, and Informatics	Up to 50k
Head of Function (WIBSS Manager)	Up to 10k

### Corporate Areas

Scheme Designation	Area	Limits (£)
Managing Director/Director of Finance and Corporate Services	ESR Recharges	Up to £1m
Managing Director/Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Intra-NHS Invoices and Payments (included but not limited to Pharmacy rebates, NWSSP distribution)	Up to £1m

## Legal & Risk and Welsh Risk Pool Services Limits

Scheme Designation	Reimbursement of claims and redress cases following WRPC approval (£)	WRP Managed Claims (£)	
		(£)	(actions)
Managing Director & Welsh Risk Pool Committee Chair	Over 2m	Over 2m	
Managing Director of NWSSP	Up to 2m	Up to 2m	
Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Up to 1m	Up to 1m	
Director of Legal and Risk Services and Welsh Risk Pool	Up to 500k	Up to 500k	Agree settlement and make admissions
Deputy Director of Legal & Risk and Welsh Risk Pool	Up to £250k	Up to £250k	Agree settlement and make admissions
Deputy Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Up to 250k	Up to £250k	
Head of Safety and Learning	Up to 100k	£20k	
<b>Note:</b>			
All cases submitted for reimbursement are reviewed by a Learning Advisory Panel and the Welsh Risk Pool Committee prior to approval.			
Approval of Lessons Learned in cases where payments will exceed £1m are delegated by Welsh Government to the Welsh Risk Pool Committee. Payments above £1m are approved by Welsh Government prior to the Welsh Risk Pool Committee.			
Claims above £2m will be signed by the Managing Director of NWSSP and Welsh Risk Pool Committee Chair.			

## Procurement Services Limits

Scheme Designation	Contracts for and on behalf of NHS Wales (£)*	NWSSP Stock Requisitions and Invoices (£)	NWSSP Stock Write offs (£)
Welsh Government (after noting by NWSSP Audit Committee for stock write-offs)	Over 1m		Over 50k
Managing Director of NWSSP and NWSSP Chair (after noting by NWSSP Audit Committee for stock write-offs)	Over 1m	Over 200k	Over 50k
Managing Director of NWSSP (after noting by NWSSP Audit Committee for stock write-offs)	Up to 1m	Up to 200k	Up to 50k
Director of Finance and Corporate Services NWSSP	Up to 750k	Up to 100k	Up to 25k
Director of Procurement Services	Up to 750k	Up to 50k	Up to 25k
Assistant Directors of Procurement		Up to 25k	Up to 10k
Senior Manager Procurement Services (Logistics)		Up to 25k	Up to 10k
Regional Supply Chain Manager			Up to 5k
Warehouse Manager (Bridgend/Denbigh) / Storage and Distribution Manager (IP5)			Up to 1k
Assistant Warehouse Manager (Bridgend/Denbigh) / Shift Manager (IP5)			Up to 1k
<b>Note:</b>			
<p><i>*Contracts for and on behalf of NHS Wales (where expenditure is incurred directly by NHS organisations) &gt; £1m require prior approval from Welsh Government with the exception of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>contracts of employment between LHBs and their staff</i></li> <li>• <i>transfers of land or contracts</i></li> <li>• <i>out of hours contracts</i></li> <li>• <i>all NHS contracts where one health service body contracts with another</i></li> </ul>			

## Existing Liabilities Scheme Limits

Scheme Designation	Damages Limit (£)
Welsh Government	1M and over
Managing Director and NWSSP Chair	Up to 1M
Managing Director	Up to 500k
Director of Finance & Corporate Services	Up to 500k
Director of Legal and Risk Services and Welsh Risk Pool	Up to 500k
Deputy Director of Finance & Corporate Services	Up to 100k
Deputy Director of Legal and Risk Services and Welsh Risk Pool	Up to 100k
Head of Function - GMPI Team Leader	Up to 50k
<b>Note:</b>	
<p>Claims and payments will be made by NWSSP and approved in line with the above scheme of delegation. Any value of damages decisions greater than £1 million will require written Welsh Government approval. All other value of claims decisions below £1million will be approved in line with the Scheme of Delegation.</p>	

## Annexe 2

### KEY GUIDANCE, INSTRUCTIONS AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS

**This Annexe forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the SSPC SOs**

#### Framework

The SSPC's governance and accountability framework comprises these SSPC SOs, incorporating Annexes of Powers reserved for the SSPC and Delegation to others, together with the following documents agreed by the SSPC.

These documents must be read in conjunction with the SSPC SOs and will have the same effect as if the details within them were incorporated within the SSPC SOs themselves:

- Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs);
- Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework;
- Risk and Assurance Framework;
- SSPC Annual Plan of Committee Business;
- Welsh Language Scheme;
- Complaints Management Protocol;
- Annual Governance Statement; and
- Annual Review,

These documents may be accessed by viewing NWSSP's website ([www.nwssp.wales.nhs.uk/opendoc/326169](http://www.nwssp.wales.nhs.uk/opendoc/326169)).

#### NHS Wales Framework

Full, up to date details of the guidance, instructions and other documents that together make up the framework of governance, accountability and assurance for the NHS in Wales are published on the NHS Wales Governance e-Manual which can be accessed at <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/governance-emanual/>. Directions or guidance on specific aspects of SSPC business are also issued in hard copy, usually under cover of a Ministerial Letter.

## Annexe 3

### SUB-COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

**This Annexe forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the  
SSPC Standing Orders**

1. *Welsh Risk Pool Committee - Terms of Reference*
2. *Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee For NHS Wales  
Shared Service Partnership - Terms of Referenc*

Standing Orders,  
Reservation and  
Delegation of  
Powers for the  
Shared Services  
Partnership  
Committee  
Annexe 4: Shared  
Services  
Partnership  
Committee Orders  
(SSPC SOs)  
Status: Final

## **1. Welsh Risk Pool Committee Terms of Reference (September 2019)**

### **1. Background**

1.01 On 1 April 2019, the National Health Service Clinical Negligence Scheme Wales Regulations 2019 came into force. The Regulations create a Scheme for Clinical Negligence Claims in Wales and were brought into force inter alia for the management of clinical negligence claims against primary care providers in Wales, operating under sections 41, 42 and 50 of the National Health Service Wales Act 2006.

1.02 The scheme is operated by NHS Wales Shared Service Partnership (NWSSP) through Legal and Risk Services with the support of WRP using its powers as a shared service function under the Velindre National Health Service Trust Shared Services Committee (Wales) Regulations 2012.

1.03 NWSSP has responsibility for the administration of the Welsh Risk Pool Service including the management of the Welsh Risk Pool Budget.

1.04 The aim of the WRPS budget management is to align the financial governance relating to claims and Redress cases with the corporate and quality governance agenda.

1.05 The Welsh Risk Pool Services has responsibility for reimbursement of claims over £25,000 (the £25,000 threshold does not apply to GMPI matters) and reimbursement of permitted costs and damages arising from Redress cases. It is also required to have effective processes for ensuring that NHS Wales learns from events to limit the risk of recurrence and improve the quality and safety for both patients and staff.

1.06 In line with standing orders the Committee has resolved to establish a sub-committee to be known as the Welsh Risk Pool Committee (WRPC). The WRPC is a sub-committee of the NWSSP Committee and has no executive powers, other than those specifically delegated in these Terms of Reference.

### **2. Membership**

2.01 The membership of the WRPC shall be determined by the NWSSPC, taking account of the balance of skills and expertise necessary to deliver the WRPC's remit and subject to any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Government.

2.02 The WRPC comprises of representation from senior NHS professionals from Trusts, Local Health Boards, Legal & Risk Services and the Welsh Government. The membership includes:

Chairman: Chairman of NWSSP

Members: Managing Director, NWSSP

Director Legal & Risk Services, NWSSP

Director of Finance & Corporate Services, NWSSP

Health Board or Trust Chair (1)

Health Board or Trust Chief Executive (1)

Health Board or Trust Medical Director (1)

Health Board or Trust Director of Nursing (1)

Health Board or Trust Director of Finance (1)

Health Board Director of Therapies & Health Science (1)

Health Board or Trust Chair Audit Committee Chair (1)

Health Board or Trust Board Secretary (1)

Health Board Director of Primary Care and Mental Health

Welsh Government (2)

Health Board Associate Medical Director – Primary Care

GP Advisor

In attendance:

NWSSP – WRPS Head of Finance

NWSSP - WRPS Head of Safety and Learning

WRPS Operations Team

WRPS Safety and Learning Team

2.03 Other individuals may be involved at the discretion of the Chairman (e.g. representatives from NSAGs as appropriate). The WRPC shall appoint a vice chairman from the agreed membership. The vice-chair shall deputise for the Chair in their absence for any reason.

2.04 In the event that a member of the WRPC is unable to attend a meeting he/she is required to seek a suitable person to attend on their behalf.

### **3. Dealing with Members' interests during meetings**

3.01 The Chair, advised by the Committee Secretariat, must ensure that the WRPC's decisions on all matters brought before it are taken in an open, balanced, objective and unbiased manner. In turn, individual members must demonstrate, through their actions, that their contribution to the WRPC's decision making is based upon the best interests of the NHS in Wales.

3.02 Where individual members identify an interest in relation to any aspect of

business set out in the meeting agenda, that member must declare an interest at the start of the meeting. Members should seek advice from the Chair, through the Committee Secretariat before the start of the meeting if they are in any doubt as to whether they should declare an interest at the meeting. All declarations of interest made at a meeting must be recorded in the minutes. It is responsibility of the chair, on behalf of the Committee, to determine the action to be taken in response to the declaration of interest, this can include excluding the member, where they have a direct or indirect financial interest or participating fully in the discussion but taking no part in the WRPC decision.

#### **4. Quorum**

4.01 A quorum shall be the Chairman or Vice Chair and at least 4 other representatives, 2 of which must be officer members of shared services and 2 of which must be NHS Trust or LHB representatives.  
Repeated non-attendance will be reported to the NWSSP Committee.

#### **5. Frequency of Meetings**

5.01 Meetings will be held at least 8 times per year, with additional meetings held if considered necessary.

#### **6. Authority**

6.01 The Accountable Officer for NWSSP is authorised to carry out any activity within the terms of reference and the scheme of delegation. In the normal course of WRPC business items included on the agenda are subject to discussion and decisions based on consensus. Decisions made by the Accountable Officer against that recommended by the WRPC will be reported to the NWSSP Committee and the Velindre NHS Trust Audit Committee for Shared Services.

6.02 The WRPC may, establish subgroups or task and finish groups as appropriate to address specific issues and to carry out on its behalf specific aspects of business.

#### **7. Responsibilities of the WRPC**

7.01 It is important that there is clarity between the role of the WRPC and that of the NWSSP Committee. The NWSSP Committee will have overall responsibility for overseeing the governance arrangements within WRPS and in support of this function the minutes of the WRPC will be forwarded for information and assurance including the highlighting of matters of significance.

7.02 The role of the WRPC is to:

- a) Receive assurance on the management of delegations for areas of responsibility detailed within this Terms of Reference and to report regularly to the on performance;
- b) Undertake actions reserved specifically for the WRPC;
- c) To provide advice and guidance to the NWSSP Accountable Officer on claims reimbursement decisions; and
- d) To support and promote a learning culture within NHS Wales.
- e)

## **8. WRPS areas of responsibility**

8.01 The main areas of responsibility for which WRPS will be held to account by the WRPC are:

- To present key financial and performance information.
- To develop an effective and efficient process including technical notes for the receipt of claims and reimbursement of monies to NHS Wales.
- To ensure that there are effective processes for the forecasting of resource requirements over the short and medium term and that there is sufficient liquidity to meet obligations.
- To ensure that the transactions of the WRPS are fully recorded and that financial accounts are produced in accordance with the timetable set by the Welsh Government.
- To undertake regular assessments of the arrangements for the management of Concerns and Claims by NHS Wales.
- To undertake regular assessments of the arrangements for the management of GMPI claims by NHS Wales.
- To undertake the assessments of high-risk clinical areas as required by Chief Executives of NHS Wales Bodies.
- To develop processes for learning from events and cascading information to all NHS Wales Bodies including undertaking detailed reviews of claims and identifying trends arising from claims.
- To undertake project work as required by the WRPC.
- To develop a process for the scrutiny of claims and Redress cases presented to each WRPC to provide assurance across NHS Wales that appropriate action has been taken to reduce the risk of recurrence. This process should have regard for the number and complexity of claims being presented to ensure that sufficient consideration is given to issues arising.
- To develop an effective and efficient process for handling and responding to enquiries in relation to indemnity and reimbursement matters.
- 

## **9. WRPC reserved matters**

- To approve the reimbursement of claims and Redress cases and impose

- penalties in accordance with the Reimbursement Procedures
- To enact the risk sharing arrangements (not currently applicable to GMPI and Redress) as agreed by the NWSSP
  - To receive and consider the annual statements of account
  - To receive and consider the annual assessment reports and to approve recommendations for any necessary action.
  - To receive and consider the outcome of claims reviews and to approve recommendations for any necessary action.
  - To agree on a communication strategy across NHS Wales to ensure that learning from events is captured and communicated appropriately.
  - To consider advice and guidance on matters of indemnity which are novel, contentious or expose NHS Wales to significant risk.
  - To request claims reviews where the WRPC considers appropriate in order that lessons can be learnt on an All-Wales basis.
  - To ensure that arrangements are in place to enable the reporting of key issues and trends via the National Quality and Safety Forum.

## **10. Support and promote a learning culture across NHS Wales**

10.1 The members of the WRPC will have collective responsibility for ensuring that the learning from events is formally considered and that a culture of improvement across NHS Wales is fostered. This will include providing advice and guidance at each meeting and where necessary taking action to address weaknesses identified, either at an individual organisational level or at a more strategic level.

## **11. Reporting Arrangements**

11.01 Minutes shall be taken at each meeting and circulated to all members of the WRPC and to the NWSSP Committee for information.

11.02 Risk sharing arrangements will be agreed by the NWSSP Committee.

11.03 Regular financial reports on the risk sharing forecasting will be considered by the Shared Services Committee and provide to Welsh Government as and when required.

11.04 Annual presentations will be made to the groups identified by the WRPC (e.g. Chief Executives, Directors of Finance, Directors of Nursing and Medical Directors).

## **12. Audit Arrangements**

12.01 The WRPS will be subject to audit by both internal and external auditors. The external auditors of Velindre University NHS Trust will ensure that there is

overall audit coverage of claims management across the NHS in Wales.

### **13. Associated documents**

- All Wales Policy on Indemnity and Insurance
- Scope of the Risk Pooling Arrangements
- WRPS Reimbursement Procedures

### 3. Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee for NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership - Terms of Reference

#### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In May 2012, all Health Boards and Trusts approved the Standing Orders for . Section 4.0.3 of the Standing Orders (as amended 1 March 2019) states:

*“The SSPC shall establish a Sub-Committee structure that meets its own advisory and assurance needs and/or utilise Velindre’s Committee arrangements to assist in discharging its governance responsibilities.”*

These Terms of Reference set out the arrangements for utilising the Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee to support the discharge of those relevant functions in relation to NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP).

#### ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Velindre University NHS Trust has an interest in NWSSP on two levels:

- a) The internal governance of NWSSP in relation to the host relationship; and
- b) As a member of NWSSP Committee in relation to the running of national systems and services.

The governance and issues relating to the hosting of NWSSP dealt with in **(a)** will be incorporated into the standard business of the existing Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee, with a specific focus on alternating Trust Audit Committee business. The assurance for the business dealt with in **(a)** will be to the Velindre University NHS Trust Board. The Chair of NWSSP Audit Committee should receive copies of the meeting papers and will be invited to attend, should there be anything on the agenda which has implications for the (SSPC).

Issues relating to NWSSP nationally run systems and services **(b)** will be fed into a separate Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee for NWSSP operating within its own work cycle. The assurance for the business dealt with in **(b)** will be to NWSSP Chair and the NWSSP Audit Committee, via the communication routes, detailed below.

The arrangements for **(a)** above, will not be considered further within these Terms of Reference, as it is for Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee to determine the relevant assurance required in relation to the host relationship.

This document goes on to outline the Terms of Reference for **(b)**, above.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Velindre University NHS Trust's Standing Orders provide that "*The Board may and, where directed by the Welsh Government must, appoint Committees of the Trust either to undertake specific functions on the Board's behalf or to provide advice and assurance to the Board in the exercise of its functions. The Board's commitment to openness and transparency in the conduct of all its business extends equally to the work carried out on its behalf by Committees*".
- 2.2 In line with Standing Orders and NWSSP's scheme of delegation, the SSPC shall nominate, annually, a Committee to be known as the Velindre University NHS Trust Audit Committee for NWSSP. The detailed Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements in respect of this Committee are set out below.
- 2.3 These Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements are based on the model Terms of Reference, as detailed in the NHS Wales Audit Committee Handbook, June 2012.

## 3 PURPOSE

- 3.1 The purpose of the Audit Committee ("the Committee") is to:
  - **Advise** and **assure** the SSPC and the Accountable Officer on whether effective arrangements are in place - through the design and operation of NWSSP's **system of assurance** - to support them in their decision taking and in discharging their accountabilities for securing the achievement of the organisation's objectives, in accordance with the standards of good governance determined for the NHS in Wales.

Where appropriate, the Committee will advise the Velindre University NHS Trust Board and SSPC as to where and how its system of assurance may be strengthened and developed further.

## 4 DELEGATED POWERS AND AUTHORITY

- 4.1 With regard to its role in providing advice to both Velindre University NHS Trust Board and the SSPC, the Audit Committee will comment specifically upon:

- The adequacy of NWSSP's strategic governance and assurance arrangements and processes for the maintenance of an effective system of good governance, risk management and internal control across the whole of the organisation's activities, designed to support the public disclosure statements that flow from the assurance processes (including the Annual Governance Statement) and providing reasonable assurance on:
  - NWSSP's ability to achieve its objectives;
  - Compliance with relevant regulatory requirements, standards, quality and service delivery requirements, other directions and requirements set by the Welsh Government and others;
  - The reliability, integrity, safety, and security of the information collected and used by the organisation;
  - The efficiency, effectiveness, and economic use of resources; and
  - The extent to which NWSSP safeguards and protects all of its assets, including its people.
  
- NWSSP's Standing Orders, and Standing Financial Instructions (including associated framework documents, as appropriate);
- The planned activity and results of Internal Audit, External Audit, and the Local Counter Fraud Specialist (including Strategies, Annual Work Plans and Annual Reports);
- The adequacy of executive and management's response to issues identified by audit, inspection, and other assurance activity, via monitoring of NWSSP's Audit Action Plan;
- Proposals for accessing Internal Audit service (where appropriate);
- Anti-fraud policies, whistle-blowing processes, and arrangements for special investigations as appropriate; and
- Any particular matter or issue upon which the SSPC or the Accountable Officer may seek advice.

4.2 The Audit Committee will support the SSPC with regard to its responsibilities for governance (including risk and control) by reviewing:

- All risk and control related disclosure statements (in particular the Annual Governance Statement together with any accompanying Head of Internal Audit Statement, External Audit Opinion, or other appropriate independent assurances), prior to endorsement by the SSPC;
- The underlying assurance processes that indicate the degree of the achievement of corporate objectives, the effectiveness of the management of principal risks and the appropriateness of the above

disclosure statements;

- The policies for ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory, legal and code of conduct and accountability requirements; and
- The policies and procedures for all work related to fraud and corruption as set out in Welsh Government Directions and as required by NHS Counter Fraud Authority.

4.3 In carrying out this work, the Audit Committee will primarily utilise the work of Internal Audit, External Audit, and other assurance functions, but will not be limited to these audit functions. It will also seek reports and assurances from directors and managers as appropriate, concentrating on the overarching systems of good governance, risk management and internal control, together with indicators of their effectiveness.

4.4 This will be evidenced through the Audit Committee's use of effective governance and assurance arrangements to guide its work and that of the audit and assurance functions that report to it, and enable the Audit Committee to review and form an opinion on:

- The **comprehensiveness** of assurances in meeting the SSPC and the Accountable Officer's assurance needs across the whole of the organisation's activities; and
- The **reliability and integrity** of these assurances.

4.5 To achieve this, the Audit Committee's programme of work will be designed to provide assurance that:

- There is an effective internal audit function that meets the standards set for the provision of internal audit in the NHS in Wales and provides appropriate independent assurance to the SSPC and the Accountable Officer through the Audit Committee;
- There is an effective Counter Fraud service that meets the standards set for the provision of counter fraud in the NHS in Wales and provides appropriate assurance to the SSPC and the Accountable Officer through the Audit Committee;
- There are effective arrangements in place to secure active, ongoing assurance from management with regard to their responsibilities and accountabilities, whether directly to the SSPC and the Accountable Officer or through the effective completion of Audit Recommendations and the Audit Committee's review of the development and drafting of the Annual Governance Statement;
- The work carried out by key sources of external assurance, in particular, but not limited to the SSPC's external auditors, is appropriately planned and co-ordinated and that the results of external assurance activity complements and informs (but does not replace)

- internal assurance activity;
- The work carried out by the whole range of external review bodies is brought to the attention of the SSPC and that the organisation is aware of the need to comply with related standards and recommendations of these review bodies, together with the risks of failing to comply;
  - The systems for financial reporting to the SSPC, including those of budgetary control, are effective; and
  - The results of audit and assurance work specific to the organisation and the implications of the findings of wider audit and assurance activity relevant to the SSPC's operations, are appropriately considered and acted upon to secure the ongoing development and improvement of the organisation's governance arrangements.

In carrying out this work, the Audit Committee will follow and implement the Audit Committee for Shared Services Annual Work Plan and will be evidenced through meeting papers, formal minutes, and highlight reports to the SSPC, Velindre Trust Board and annually, via the Annual Governance Statement, to the Velindre University NHS Trust's Chief Executive.

### **Authority**

4.6 The Audit Committee is authorised by the SSPC to investigate or to have investigated any activity within its Terms of Reference. In doing so, the Audit Committee shall have the right to inspect any books, records, or documents of NWSSP, relevant to the Audit Committee's remit and ensuring patient/client and staff confidentiality, as appropriate. It may seek relevant information from any:

- Employee (and all employees are directed to co-operate with any reasonable request made by the Audit Committee); and
- Any other Committee, Sub Committee or Group set up by the SSPC to assist it in the delivery of its functions.

4.7 The Audit Committee is authorised by the SSPC to obtain external legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers it necessary, in accordance with the SSPC's procurement, budgetary and other requirements.

### **Access**

4.8 The Head of Internal Audit and the Audit Manager of External Audit shall have unrestricted and confidential access to the Chair of the Audit Committee at any time and the Chair of the Audit Committee will seek to gain reciprocal access as necessary.

4.9 The Audit Committee will meet with Internal and External Auditors and the nominated Local Counter Fraud Specialist, without the presence of officials, on at least one occasion each year.

4.10 The Chair of Audit Committee shall have reasonable access to Executive Directors and other relevant senior staff.

### **Sub Committees**

4.11 The Audit Committee may, subject to the approval of the SSPC, establish Sub Committees or Task and Finish Groups to carry out on its behalf specific aspects of Committee business. Currently, there is an established Welsh Risk Pool Committee which is a Sub Committee of the SSPC, however, there are no Sub Committees of the Audit Committee.

## **5 MEMBERSHIP**

### **Members**

5.1 A minimum of 3 members, comprising:

Chair Independent member of the Board

Members Two other independent members of the Velindre Trust Board.

The Audit Committee may also co-opt additional independent 'external' members from outside the organisation to provide specialist skills, knowledge and expertise.

The Chair of the organisation shall not be a member of the Audit Committee.

### **Attendees**

5.2 In attendance:

NWSSP Managing Director, as Accountable Officer  
NWSSP Chair  
NWSSP Director of Finance & Corporate Services  
NWSSP Director of Audit & Assurance  
NWSSP Head of Internal Audit  
NWSSP Audit Manager



5.6 The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services and NWSSP Corporate Services Manager, on behalf of the Audit Committee Chair, shall:

- Arrange the provision of advice and support to Audit Committee members on any aspect related to the conduct of their role;
- Ensure that Committee agenda and supporting papers are issued 5 working days in advance of the meeting taking place; and
- Ensure the provision of a programme of organisational development for Audit Committee members as part of the Trust's overall Organisational Development programme developed by the Velindre Executive Director of Workforce & Organisational Development.

## **6 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Quorum**

6.1 At least two members must be present to ensure the quorum of the Audit Committee, one of whom should be the Audit Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

6.2 Meetings shall be held no less than quarterly and otherwise as the Chair of the Audit Committee deems necessary, consistent with NWSSP's Annual Plan of Business. The External Auditor or Head of Internal Audit may request a meeting if they consider that one is necessary.

### **Withdrawal of Individuals in Attendance**

6.3 The Audit Committee may ask any or all of those who normally attend but who are not members to withdraw to facilitate open and frank discussion of particular matters.

## **7 RELATIONSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITIES WITH THE TRUST BOARD & SSPC DELEGATED TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

7.1 Although the Velindre Trust Board, with the SSPC and its Sub Committees, including the Welsh Risk Pool Sub Committee, has delegated authority to the Audit Committee for the exercise of certain functions as set out within these Terms of Reference, it retains overall responsibility and accountability for ensuring the quality and safety of healthcare for its citizens through the effective governance of the organisation.

7.2 The Audit Committee is directly accountable to the Velindre Trust Board for its performance in exercising the functions set out in these Terms of Reference.

7.3 The Audit Committee, through its Chair and members, shall work closely with NWSSP and its other Sub Committees to provide advice and assurance to the SSPC by taking into account:

- Joint planning and co-ordination of the SSPC business; and
- Sharing of information

in doing so, contributing to the integration of good governance across the organisation, ensuring that all sources of assurance are incorporated into NWSSP's overall risk and assurance arrangements. This will primarily be achieved through the discussions held at the SSPC, annually, at the end of the financial year.

7.4 The Audit Committee will consider the assurance provided through the work of the SSPC's other Committees and Sub Committees to meet its responsibilities for advising the SSPC on the adequacy of the organisation's overall system of assurance by receipt of their annual work plans.

7.5 The Audit Committee shall embed the SSPC's and Trust's corporate standards, priorities, and requirements, e.g. equality and human rights, through the conduct of its business.

## **8 REPORTING AND ASSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

8.1 The Audit Committee Chair shall:

- Report formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the Board, SSPC and the Accountable Officer on the Audit Committee's activities. This includes verbal updates on activity and the submission of committee minutes, and written highlight reports throughout the year;
- Bring to the Velindre University NHS Trust Board, SSPC and the Accountable Officer's specific attention any significant matters under consideration by the Audit Committee; and
- Ensure appropriate escalation arrangements are in place to alert the SSPC Chair, Managing Director (and Accountable Officer) or Chairs of other relevant Committees, of any urgent/critical matters that may affect the operation and/or reputation of the organisation.

8.2 The Audit Committee shall provide a written Annual Report to the SSPC and the Accountable Officer on its work in support of the Annual

Governance Statement, specifically commenting on the adequacy of the assurance arrangements, the extent to which risk management is comprehensively embedded throughout the organisation, the integration of

governance arrangements and the appropriateness of self-assessment activity against relevant standards. The report will also record the results of the Audit Committee's self-assessment and evaluation.

- 8.3 The Velindre Trust Board and SSPC may also require the Audit Committee Chair to report upon the Audit Committee's activities at public meetings or to community partners and other stakeholders, where this is considered appropriate, e.g. where the Audit Committee's assurance role relates to a joint or shared responsibility.
- 8.4 The NWSSP Assistant Director of Corporate Services and Corporate Services Manager, on behalf of the Partnership, shall oversee a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of the Audit Committee's performance and operation, including that of any Sub Committees established. In doing so, account will be taken of the requirements set out in the NHS Wales Audit Committee Handbook.

## **9 APPLICABILITY OF STANDING ORDERS TO COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- 9.1 The requirements for the conduct of business as set out in the NWSSP's Standing Orders are equally applicable to the operation of the Audit Committee, except in the following areas:
- Quorum (*as per section on Committee meetings*)
  - Notice of meetings
  - Notifying the public of meetings
  - Admission of the public, the press, and other observers
  -

## **10 REVIEW**

- 10.1 These Terms of Reference and operating arrangements shall be reviewed annually by the Audit Committee with reference to the SSPC and Velindre Trust Board.

## **Annexe 4**

### **ADVISORY GROUPS AND EXPERT PANELS**

#### **Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements**

**This Annexe forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the  
SSPC Standing Orders**

1. Evidence Based Procurement Board (EBPB)
2. Welsh Energy Group (WEG) and Welsh Energy Operational Group (WEOG)

# **1. Terms of Reference of the Evidence Based Procurement Board (EBPB) of the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) (August 2018)**

## **1. Aims and Objectives**

The Board shall be known as the 'Evidence Based Procurement Board' (EBPB) and will consist of professionals from across various disciplines within NHS Wales and appropriate research bodies, making recommendations and guidance for implementation by the Welsh NHS.

The EBPB advises, promotes, develops and implements value and evidence-based procurement of medical technologies for NHS Wales. The group will assist with rationalisation and standardisation in line with Prudent healthcare principles, underpinned with the "*Once for Wales*" philosophy, and will assess whether NHS Wales should discard devices/technologies if they are deemed inappropriate or wasteful.

The EBPB will produce advice and guidance to support planning and decision making in Local Health Boards and Trusts.

The EBPB shall provide advice, guidance and recommendations to the Shared Services Committee and the WG Efficiency Healthcare Value & Improvement Group.

The EBPB will support NHS Wales core values through the assessment of quality and safety elements of medical technologies; using this to provide high value evidence-based care whilst reducing harm. In addition, through the rationalisation and standardisation programme, the EBPB will enable reduced variation and waste. It also specifically supports the 2018 report "*A Healthier Wales: our Plan for Health and Social Care*" principles of "Higher value" (better outcomes, better experience at reduced cost, less variation, and no harm) and "Evidence driven" (the use of research, knowledge and information to understand what works).

In line with the emphasis of "Value" in "*A Healthier Wales*", the EBPB will play a key role in assisting the delivery of the Value Based Health Care agenda across the NHS in Wales.

It is acknowledged that there will be some areas that will be of mutual interest to Health Technology Wales (HTW) and these will be addressed through discussion with appropriate representatives.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership will be endorsed by Welsh Government and made up of senior

professionals from NHS Wales and academia. The EBPB will consist of both voting and non-voting members. Membership is as follows;

- Chair - Medical Director/Assistant MD
- NWSSP Director (SRO)
- Finance Director
- Health Economist
- Director of SMTL
- Health Technology Wales
- Procurement Services
- Deputy Executive Nurse Director
- Secondary Care Clinician
- National Clinical Lead for Prudent & Value Based Care/Primary Care Senior Clinician
- Value Based Care/National Lead VBP
- Academic Clinician
- Academia
- NWSSP MD

**Non-voting** members may be invited to attend as and when appropriate;

- Individuals co-opted for advice on specialist category areas, including Clinical networks and clinicians locally.
- Nominated experts from Evidence Research Group

#### **Secretariat**

- NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Procurement Services
- NHS Wales staff may request to attend as observers by writing in advance to the Chair.

#### **Deputies**

In the event of a voting member not being in attendance, an agreed named deputy should attend. The EBPB will approve deputies for all voting members of the group, (Chair excluded). A Vice Chair will be appointed in accordance with Point 4.

### **3. OFFICERS**

The Chair will normally be a Medical Director/ Assistant Medical Director, appointed by the EBPB and approved by Welsh Government whose term of office shall normally be between 1-5 years. They will be eligible for reappointment for an additional term of office, but the total period cannot exceed 10 years.

A Vice-Chair will be elected from the voting members. The Vice Chair or in their

absence, another voting member may preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair.

#### **4. MEETINGS**

The EBPB will meet a minimum of 4 times per year, and roles and responsibilities of members should be readily available to any relevant party on request.

#### **5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members MUST declare, in advance any financial and/or personal interests, to any related matter that is subject of consideration. Any declarations made and/or actions taken will be noted in the minutes.

#### **6. VOTING**

Any issues/questions should be resolved by consensus. Only voting members will have voting rights. Deputies will be eligible to vote. The Chair will not normally vote on matters however in the case of equality of votes, the Chair or person presiding as Chair will have the casting vote. Members with a conflict of interest in a specific Topic, including members who have had a significant role in the preparation of the submissions being considered, will not cast a vote for that Topic.

#### **7. QUORUM**

Quorum will be 50% of voting members.

#### **8. VALIDITY OF PROCEEDINGS/MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES**

Validity of proceedings of the EBPB is not affected by a vacancy or defect in the appointment of a member of deputy. Membership of the EBPB shall end if;

- Members resign by giving notice in writing to the Chair of the EBPB
- Absenteeism from 3 consecutive ordinary meetings; unless the EBPB is satisfied that absence is due to reasonable cause
- Ceases to belong to the body they represent
- Term of office expires

#### **9. EVIDENCE REVIEW GROUP (ERG)**

The ERG is a standing committee which reports to the EBPB. Staff from SMTL and ProcS form the core membership who will undertake the day-to-day workload for the ERG.

The ERG will also include experts in Health Economics and Human Factors from

Swansea University as and when required.

The ERG will liaise with other researchers and analysts as and when required, including partnering with HTW staff.

Expert Membership - The ERG will recruit expert members as and when required to provide clinical and domain-specific advice and expertise. Expert members may include Clinical experts from NHS Wales and Welsh Government National Special Advisory Groups (NSAGs).

## **10. POWERS OF THE EBPB**

- The EBPB may require the Evidence Review Group (ERG) to convene meetings of expert advisors.
- The work and meetings of the ERG and expert advisors should be reported to the EBPB.
- The ERG should operate in an advisory role to the EBPB.
- The EBPB may seek independent advice as and when appropriate.
- The EBPB may commission external bodies to evaluate evidence in relation to products.
- The EBPB and ERG will incur the minimum necessary expenditure to enable their work to be carried out. These expenses will be considered and administered by NWSSP Shared Services Procurement Services.
- Nominated experts from the ERG may be required to attend meetings of the EBPB.

## **11. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The EBPB is accountable to the NWSSP committee and will utilise NWSSP's governance structures.

## **12. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Support the rationalisation and standardisation agenda in line with prudent Healthcare principles.
- Review evaluations and evidence assessments of medical technologies.
- Develop a work programme determined by Health Boards/Trusts, Welsh Risk Pool, and other stakeholders.
- Provide advice to stakeholders regarding new or innovative products for use across NHS Wales in consultation with HTW.
- Liaise with Academia on the EBPB work programme, including product development initiatives where appropriate.
- Participate in horizon scanning with other agencies such as HTW and advise on the potential impact for the NHS.

- Provide advice on clinical pathways/treatments where devices and consumables are part of the clinical process, complimenting and supporting the work of NICE.
- Receive for consideration into the work programme topics referred by WG and other key stakeholders. This will include liaison with HTW's Front Door Group.
- Liaise and engage with professional peers.
- Produce an Annual report for review by NHS Wales and .
- Consider NICE guidance and Do Not Do recommendations when developing the work programme.
- Develop mechanisms to audit adoption of the EBPB advice.

### **13. GROUP STRUCTURE & METHODS**

A separate document is available detailing the structure and working methodology of the EBPB and other structures.

# **Welsh Energy Group (WEG)**

## **Welsh Energy Operational Group (WEOG)**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Scope**

The energy requirements of the NHS in Wales have a combined value in excess of £134m per annum. The overall portfolio comprises of over five hundred sites each requiring a supply of Gas, Electricity, Fuel Oils and/or Biomass Fuel.

Given the exceptional energy prices and volatility in the energy markets, an All Wales Directors of Finance (AWDoFs) Task & Finish Group was established in 2023 to progress a review, consider options and make recommendations in regard to the governance of energy procurement for NHS Wales. The outcome of this was the recommendation for the following groups to be formed:

- Wales Energy Group (WEG) - with delegated authority to agree national purchasing decisions & report to the NHS Wales (SSPC)
- Wales Energy Operational Group (WEOG) as a sub-group to the WEG – for operational management issues

This document's purpose is to define the Terms of Reference (ToR) for both of the above groups.

#### **WEG**

The WEG shall establish a strategy for the procurement of gas and electricity which will define basket choices from the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) framework options available to NHS Wales. The strategy shall have the aim of balancing risk limitation with cost certainty to the NHS Wales energy budget. Group members will be provided with monthly energy market analysis from CCS, in order to develop expertise of group members and aid informed decision making. The group will meet quarterly – with the option to increase frequency as market volatility dictates. The WEG shall also act as the All-Wales Programme Review Board regarding the renewal, extension and ratification of Gas and Electricity contracts made on an All-Wales Basis.

#### **WEOG**

The WEOG shall establish a common model to supplier management and best working practices across all NHS Wales utility contracts. Group members will be provided with monthly energy market analysis and insight from CCS, in order to keep members well-informed of market conditions. The group will meet monthly – with the option to increase or decrease the frequency if required.

## **Structure**

### **WEG**

The group will consist of Directors of Finance representatives from each of the Health Boards, Special Health Authorities, NWSSP and Trusts, or their deputies who will act with the delegated authority of their respective organisation to contribute to the collective decisions of the Group. The group will also include representation from NWSSP Procurement Services and NWSSP Finance.

### **WEOG**

The group will consist of representatives from each of the Health Boards, Special Health Authorities, NWSSP and Trusts, made up of colleagues from various departments such as (but not limited to) Estates, Facilities and Finance. Representatives should have the delegated authority of their respective organisations to contribute to the decisions relevant to the scope of the Group. The group will also include representation from NWSSP Procurement Services.

## **Membership**

### **WEG**

It is suggested that the Group consist of the following members as a minimum;

- Chair of the Group
- Vice Chair of the Group
- Health Board/ Special Health Authority /NWSSP/ Trust Directors of Finance representatives or deputies with the delegated authority of their respective organisation to contribute to the decisions of the Group
- Representative(s) from NWSSP Procurement Services and NWSSP Finance.

The Group shall Co-opt an Account Manager or Market Analyst of the framework provider (CCS) for each meeting of the WEG to provide market intelligence.

It may be necessary for separate Task & Finish group(s) to be established in order to undertake specifically defined programmes of work with clear objectives and timescales. In such instances, the WEG will determine the remit and membership of such groups and the resultant groups will report progress and deliverables to the WEG and WEOG where appropriate.

***Quorum*** – *The minimum group representation required to make any decision shall be the Chair of the Group (or the Vice Chair), the Head of Sourcing from NWSSP Procurement Services (or a deputy nominated by the same) and sufficient additional members so that there are no less than seven member organisations represented at the meeting.*

## **WEOG**

It is suggested that the Group consist of the following members as a minimum;

- Chair of the Group
- Vice Chair of the Group
- Organisation representatives from various departments such as (but not limited to) Estates, Facilities, and Finance as appropriate
- Representative(s) from NWSSP Procurement Services and NWSSP Finance.

The Group shall Co-opt an Account Manager of the framework provider (CCS) for each meeting of the WEOG to provide market intelligence and discuss matters arising in relation to the Gas and Electricity contracts. Additionally, the group shall Co-opt a commodity supplier representative on a bi-monthly basis to facilitate account management discussions.

It may be necessary for separate Task & Finish group(s) to be established in order to undertake specifically defined programmes of work with clear objectives and timescales. In such instances, the WEG will determine the remit and membership of such groups and the resultant groups will report progress and deliverables to the WEOG and WEG where appropriate.

*Quorum – The minimum group representation required to make any decision shall be the Chair of the Group (or the Vice Chair), the Head of Sourcing from NWSSP Procurement Services (or a deputy nominated by the same) and sufficient additional members so that there are no less than seven member organisations represented at the meeting.*

## **Role of the Groups**

### **WEG**

- To ensure a consistent approach to the procurement / sourcing of Gas and Electricity throughout all aspects of the NHS in Wales.
- To input into the development of a strategic procurement model for Gas and Electricity contracts within NHS Wales.
- To provide a platform for the framework provider to share utility market intelligence with all Health Boards, Special Health Authorities, NWSSP and Trusts within NHS Wales.
- To develop, agree and manage the Purchasing Strategy for the All-Wales Gas and Electricity contracts having received market intelligence and actual price/contract performance, and agree in a timely manner national purchasing decisions (i.e. basket choice).
- To monitor contract performance with the WEOG representative/s providing an update of performance of the Gas and Electricity contracts.
- To monitor NHS Wales Gas and Electricity forecasts as provided by the supplier and supply regular financial forecasts to all member NHS organisations.
- To nominate NHS Wales member(s) as required for participation in the suppliers

External Risk Management (ERM) group

- To ensure that the Terms of Reference for the WEG/WEOG are reviewed each year .

## **WEOG**

- To ensure a consistent approach to the contract management of the supply of all utilities (including but not limited to Gas, Electricity, Fuel Oils, and Biomass) throughout all aspects of the NHS in Wales.
- To allow all parties to discuss their respective levels of satisfaction in respect of those Services provided via all Contracts managed by the WEOG and to agree any action necessary to address areas of dissatisfaction.
- To monitor and discuss the performance of supplier(s) against the terms of the All-Wales Utilities contracts and (where necessary) agree a strategy for enforcing said contractual terms, including (but not limited to) the use of performance improvement notices, financial penalties and termination of contracts.
- To support the role of the Local Estates and Energy leads by enabling a collaborative approach to contract management.
- To agree and monitor Key Performance Indicators for All Wales Utilities contracts.
- To consider any changes required to the supply of utilities in line with national policies and strategies as they change and develop.
- To provide an update of performance of Gas and Electricity contracts to WEG, by nominated person/s.
- To nominate NHS Wales member(s) as required for participation in the suppliers Operational Improvement Group (OPIG)
- To ensure that the Terms of Reference for the WEG/WEOG are reviewed annually

## **Market Analysis**

### **WEG**

The framework provider will provide a market overview prior to the development of a Purchasing Strategy by WEG. The framework provider will not influence the development of the strategy and decisions will be verbally agreed by NHS Wales WEG attendees.

The Purchasing Strategy will decide basket(s) for NHS Wales to join, and should multiple baskets be selected, define meter level criteria for basket participation.

The framework provider shall provide monthly/quarterly/annual market and basket analysis as required by NHS Wales, which will be distributed to the WEG and WEOG by NWSSP Procurement Services.

### **WEOG**

The framework provider shall provide monthly/quarterly/annual market and basket

analysis as required by NHS Wales, which will be distributed to the WEG and WEOG by NWSSP PS.

### **Authority and Accountability**

NWSSP Procurement Services has the authority to conduct market engagement activity, on behalf of all Health Boards, Special Health Authorities, NWSSP and Trusts, in NHS Wales, from the governance divested in NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership.

The WEG is under the authority of NHS Wales and therefore will be required to submit an update/highlight report to each meeting of the NHS Wales as instructed.

### **WEG**

All decisions made by the WEG should ideally be via the consensus of all member organisations in attendance at the relevant WEG meeting. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, a decision will be made by means of a vote whereby each member organisation will have a single equal vote and a decision based on the view of the majority. NWSSP Procurement Services will have no vote. In the event of a tied result, the Chair of the Group will have the casting vote.

The WEG is a sub-Committee of the . The All-Wales Directors of Finance Group will be responsible for nominating a Chair and Vice Chair for the WEG from within NHS Wales once every two years or as necessitated due to the resignation of the previous Chair. The will be responsible for appointing the Chair and Vice Chair. Individuals will not be restricted from undertaking these roles for longer than two years provided that the approve, and All-Wales Directors of Finance Group is in favour of their continued tenure

### **WEOG**

All decisions made by the WEOG should ideally be via the consensus of all member organisations in attendance at the relevant WEOG meeting. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, a decision will be made by means of a vote whereby each member organisation will have a single equal vote and a decision based on the view of the majority. NWSSP Procurement Services will have no vote. In the event of a tied result, the Chair of the Group will have the casting vote.

The WEG will be responsible for appointing a Chair for the WEOG from within NHS Wales once every two years or as necessitated due to the resignation of the previous Chair. The WEG will also appoint a Vice Chair. Individuals will not be restricted from undertaking these roles for longer than two years provided that the WEG is in favour of their continued tenure.

The WEOG shall also have the authority to agree the award and renewal of supply agreements for other utilities contracts (Fuel Oils and/or Biomass) on behalf of the

Health Boards, Special Health Authorities, NWSSP and Trusts, in NHS Wales.

### **Performance Monitoring and Financial Forecasting**

The framework provider shall be required to produce quarterly reports outlining the overall performance of trading on behalf of NHS Wales. This will include analysis of the traded periods in comparison to the average market price for each tradable period and information provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net-Zero. This report shall evidence the overall pricing activity carried out in relation to the pure energy components of each contract only. Whilst the Group will acknowledge the impact of transmission, transportation, and other industry pass through costs, no accountability will be borne by the group in this respect. This report will be provided at each quarterly meeting of the WEG and will be distributed onwards to WEOG members by NWSSP Procurement Services.

The framework provider shall also be required to produce an annual report each financial year providing a forecast of out-turn costs for each NHS Wales organisation for that financial year. By request, they will also be required to provide forecasts of utilities costs for future years as may be required to meet IMTP planning requirements.

### **Frequency of meetings**

The WEG shall meet on a quarterly basis as a minimum. The Group will, at its discretion, agree intermediate meetings if these are deemed to be warranted. The WEOG shall initially meet on a monthly basis and at its discretion, may amend the frequency of the meetings and agree intermediate meetings if required.

### **Content of meetings**

Each of the WEG meetings will consist of the following activities.

- Brief internal pre meeting to enable discussion for NHS members prior to main meeting forum ( The framework provider will not be at the pre meeting) .
- Approve the minutes of the previous WEG meeting and review agreed actions.
- Review of the energy market activity, trends and factors which influence commodity pricing (to be provided by the framework provider).
- WEG member to provide feedback from the suppliers External Risk Management (ERM)
- Review of the performance of the WEG Purchasing(baskets) as executed by the framework provider
- Review of Gas and Electricity supplier(s) performance, including any agreed KPIs and improvement actions – with summary to be provided by nominated person/s from WEOG.
- Framework provider's report of any change to pass-through costs to enable member organisations to project total energy costs.
- Updates on specific projects and activity of any separate Task & Finish group(s).

Each of the WEOG meetings will consist of the following activities.

- Brief pre internal meeting to enable discussion for NHS members prior to main meeting forum with framework provider and supplier(s) present. (The framework provider will not be at the pre meeting)
- Approve the minutes of the previous WEOG meeting and review agreed actions.
- Review of framework providers summary market report on those factors currently affecting utility pricing.
- Supplier risk (framework provider to highlight any risk of note)
- Review of supplier performance, including any agreed KPIs and improvement actions.
- Supplier's presentation of any information requested by the Group, for example billing, Complaints etc
- Framework provider's report of any change to pass-through costs to enable member organisations to project total energy costs.
- Any potential new/deleted sites affecting volumes to be flagged
- Updates on specific projects and activity of any separate Task & Finish group(s).
- WEOG member to provide feedback on the CCS Operational Improvement Group

While it is acknowledged that the WEOG will focus on Gas and Electricity contracts, the Group's meeting agenda will also include review of other Utility contracts, such as Fuel Oils and Biomass, at least once per annum. The inclusion of such contracts as part of the agenda will be notified to the Group in advance. This will enable additional personnel as may be required to be co-opted into the Group for those specific meetings where other Utility contracts will be discussed.

### Process for the Selection, Appointment and Termination of the Chair of the

#### SSPC

This Annexe forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the  
SSPC SOs

The (SSPC) has the responsibility for appointing the Chair of the SSPC. Whilst the appointment is not a Cabinet Secretary appointment the process takes account of the appointment principles outlined in the Governance Code on Public Appointments (revised October 2025), as published by the Cabinet Office and updated January 2026 that sets out the regulatory framework for public appointments.

#### MAIN BODY

In line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments to Public Bodies (revised October 2025) the principles of public appointments are summarised below:

**A. Ministerial responsibility** - The ultimate responsibility for appointments and thus the selection of those appointed rests with Ministers who are accountable to Parliament for their decisions and actions. Welsh ministers are accountable to Senedd Cymru, Welsh Parliament.

**B. Selflessness** - Ministers when making appointments should act solely in terms of the public interest.

**C. Integrity** - Ministers when making appointments, and all others involved in the appointment process, must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

**D. Merit** - All public appointments should be governed by the principle of appointment on merit. This means providing Ministers with a choice of high-quality candidates, drawn from a strong, diverse field, whose skills, experiences and qualities have been judged to meet the needs of the public body or statutory office in question.

**E. Openness** - Processes for making public appointments should be open and transparent.

F. **Diversity** - Public appointments should reflect the diversity of the society in which we live, and appointments should be made taking account of the need to appoint boards which include a balance of skills and backgrounds.

G. **Assurance** - There should be established assurance processes with appropriate checks and balances. The Commissioner for Public Appointments has an important role in providing independent assurance that public appointments are made in accordance with these Principles and this Governance Code.

H. **Fairness** - Selection processes should be fair, impartial and each candidate must be assessed against the same criteria for the role in question.

I. **Public service** - All public appointments should be seen as an opportunity to ensure that exceptional people from across the United Kingdom are given the chance to serve the public and utilise their skills and expertise to drive progress.

The essential features of the process will include the following:

- A panel must be set up to oversee the appointments process;
- The panel must be chaired by an independent assessor;
- An agreed selection process, selection criteria and publicity strategy for a successful appointment;
- A panel report must be prepared, signed by the chair of the appointment panel; and
- The appointment of the successful candidate must be publicised.

It is important that all public appointees uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Seven Principles of Public Life. The panel must satisfy itself that all candidates for appointment can meet these standards and have no conflicts of interest that would call into question their ability to perform the role.

The selection panel will comprise of the following members:

- Independent Assessor (Panel Chair)
- SSPC representative (Vice-chair)
- Velindre University NHS Trust Chair (as NWSSP host)
- Welsh Government representative

The appointment process is managed by the NWSSP Director of People and Organisational Development.

A suite of supporting documentation has been developed to support the process.

The job **advertisement**. Published via on-line fora in keeping with best practice for public appointments.

The candidate application **form**. The content and format very closely mirrors the application form currently used by the Welsh Government for Public Appointments.

A **briefing pack** for candidates. This includes details of the role profile and person specification.

### **Governance and Risk Issues**

Whilst the appointment is not a Cabinet Secretary appointment, the planned process will take account of the appointment principles outlined in the Governance Code on Public Appointments to Public Bodies (revised October 2025) and sets out the regulatory framework for public appointments.

The selection process will be repeated following each maximum term of office for the Chair of the SSPC, or when the Chair resigns, or following removal of the Chair by termination.

### **Reappointment and Tenure**

The SSPC SOs form part of the Velindre University NHS Trust Standing Orders, which must take account of the provisions of the Velindre National Health Service Trust Shared Services Committee (Wales) Regulations 2012.

### **Suspension and Termination**

Should the circumstances laid down in the draft regulations at 9.(1), 9.(3), 9.(5) or 10.(1) emerge, and the removal (i.e. suspension or termination) of the Chair is deemed necessary, the Committee will agree the reasons for the decision to do so and formally submit these reasons to a panel constituted as that described for the selection process above.

The panel will then make a recommendation to Velindre University NHS Trust to suspend or remove the Chair. Velindre University NHS Trust will then take the necessary action and subsequently provide the Welsh Ministers with the reasons agreed as per section 9.(2) (termination) or 10.(2) (suspension) of the Regulations.