

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Director General Health and Social Services/
NHS Wales Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mr Stephen Harry
Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner
Emergency Ambulance Services Committee
Unit 1, Charnwood Court
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Cardiff
CF15 7QZ
Stephen.Harry@wales.nhs.uk

2 October 2023

Dear Stephen

Integrated Medium-Term Plan 2023-2026

I am pleased to confirm your Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP) submitted on the 31 March 2023 is acceptable and has been noted by the Minister for Health and Social Services. This is in recognition of the continued development and maturing of integrated planning within EASC and demonstrates that the organisation is planning in an environment of rising costs.

Whilst the financial position is extremely challenging for the system, I expect organisations to deliver the commitments set out within their plans, particularly in relation to the Ministerial priorities. You will be aware of parallel discussions with NHS Trusts and health boards to proactively explore opportunities to deliver financial improvement beyond the current forecast.

The Committee should continue to progress improvements of a clear triangulated financial position and key trajectories. This is fundamental to the successful delivery of the Committee supported IMTP. The Committee will need to:

- a) Demonstrate delivery of a robust savings plan supported by an opportunities pipeline to maximize its improvement trajectory and develop robust mitigating actions to manage financial risks.

- b) Demonstrate actions are being taken to mitigate expenditure in volume and inflationary growth pressures beyond funded levels, as far as possible, throughout the financial year to ensure you maintain financial balance.
- c) Demonstrate actions are being taken to mitigate any residual costs in relation to the legacy of COVID.
- d) Continue to make progress with the committee's approach to allocative value and the population health resource agenda where possible.

This will be monitored by the NHS Executive, Financial Planning and Delivery Team on a quarterly basis.

I expect the Committee to scrutinise the plan and ensure that progress is monitored effectively over the forthcoming year, in particular against the Ministerial Priority Templates. Where necessary, any risks or challenges that need to be further addressed will need to be discussed and agreed at Committee and communicated to Welsh Government via the routine governance arrangements. Where this necessitates any material changes to the IMTP in year 1 will require you to advise me of these changes through an 'Accountable Officer' letter.

I expect to see the Committee owning the plan which has been submitted and for you and the senior team to lead on meeting the needs of your stakeholders and the commitments set out in the IMTP.

There is an ongoing expectation that the Committee will continue preparing robust financial plans for future years, that considers all choices and options to meet the requirements of the NHS Wales Planning Framework.

A copy of your Committee reports should be forwarded on a quarterly basis to HSS-PlanningTeam@gov.wales. Organisations should refresh their Minimum Data Set (MDS) on a quarterly basis for as part of their internal review of plans. Please submit your quarter two MDS returns to HSS-PlanningTeam@gov.wales by 27th October 2023.

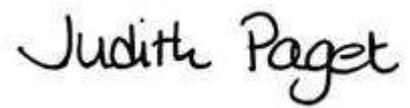
The Minister is clear that progress in delivering key priorities will form part of the ongoing discussions with Chairs. The Welsh Government Planning team will continue to engage and support local planning teams and track progress. Performance and delivery discussions on areas of priority and risk will continue to be scrutinised via the regular Integrated Quality Planning and Delivery (IQPD) meetings.

The assessment of the Integrated Medium-Term Plan does not equate to agreement to any detailed service changes, business case proposals or capital assumptions indicated within it. Nor does the plan approval confirm any validity in funding assumptions around additional revenue or capital funding other than that specified below. All service change and business case proposals will still be subject to:

- compliance with extant requirements set out in guidance or in legislation, and
- business cases and bids being subject to the normal business case approval process, including capital, and Invest to Save bid approval processes.

The Committee has not requested financial flexibility as part of the IMTP, and none has been granted. I trust that this letter provides clarity on our expectations, but should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Paget". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and slightly larger than the rest of the letters.

Judith Paget CBE

cc: Nick Wood, Deputy Chief Executive NHS Wales
Samia Edmonds, Planning Director
Jeremy Griffiths, Director of Operations
Hywel Jones, Director of Finance, FDU