

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

Information further to OAQ0925(HSS) issued by Brian Gibbons, the Minister for Health and Social Services

To Jenny Randerson:

Thank you for your question raised on 21 June 2006 following on from OAQ0925 tabled by Lorraine Barrett in which you ask 'how many local health boards have appointed a lead person on osteoporosis, one of the first recommended actions in the national services framework for older people'.

The NSF for older people, which included ten standards, was launched on 20 March 2006. Appointing a lead person on osteoporosis was not one of the actions in the final published document.

The action point that you are referring to from the consultation draft NSF 'every health and social care community should identify a lead professional for falls and fractures' was removed from the final NSF because this would be inconsistent with the other standards, as we did not see the need to appoint a lead person for stroke, mental health and medicines and so on. However, the NSF does require each LHB, trust and local authority to identify a lead manager for older people's services generally, and this person has the responsibility for ensuring progress with the whole NSF.

The action points we did include for the falls and fractures standard will ensure a multi-agency approach to falls prevention through better identification and management of those at risk of falling and suffering a fracture, and better access to treatment and services. The focus on health promotion across the NSF and more generally through Health Challenge Wales will help to prevent conditions like osteoporosis, which exacerbate the effects of a fall.