

Agenda – Health and Social Care Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Hybrid – Committee room 5 Tŷ Hywel and video Conference via Zoom	Helen Finlayson Committee Clerk
Meeting date: Wednesday 30 November 2022	0300 200 6565 SeneddHealth@senedd.wales
Meeting time: 09.00	

Private pre-meeting (09.00–09.30)

- 1 **Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(09.30)
- 2 **Social care horizon-scanning: evidence session with Care Inspectorate Wales**
(09.30–10.45) (Pages 1 – 18)
Gillian Baranski, Chief Inspector, Care Inspectorate Wales
Vicky Poole, Deputy Chief Inspector, Care Inspectorate Wales

Research brief
Paper 1 – Evidence from Care Inspectorate Wales
- 3 **Paper(s) to note**
(10.45)
 - 3.1 **Letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Act 2018**
(Pages 19 – 20)
 - 3.2 **Letter from the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing regarding the Minimum Price for Alcohol (Wales) Act 2018**
(Pages 21 – 22)



- 3.3 Letter from the Finance Committee to the First Minister regarding scrutiny of the financial implications of Bills**
(Pages 23 – 25)
- 3.4 Letter to the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing regarding Fifth Senedd Committee recommendations relating to mental health and wellbeing**
(Pages 26 – 29)
- 3.5 Letter from the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing to the Children, Young People and Education Committee regarding update on Mind Over Matter**
(Pages 30 – 32)
- 3.6 Letter to the Minister for Health and Social Service regarding progress made towards achieving elimination of hepatitis C in Wales**
(Page 33)
- 3.7 Letter from the Minister for Health and Social Service regarding progress made towards achieving elimination of hepatitis C in Wales**
(Page 34)
- 3.8 Letter from the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing regarding the Food Supplement and Food for Specific Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2022**
(Pages 35 – 36)
- 3.9 Letter from the UK Statistics Authority regarding Office for Statistics Regulation reports**
(Pages 37 – 38)
- 3.10 Letter from the Children, Young People and Education Committee regarding Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2023–24**
(Pages 39 – 40)
- 4 Motion under Standing Orders 17.42(vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting**
(10.45)
- 5 Social care horizon–scanning: consideration of evidence**
(10.45–11.00)

6 Correspondence from the Welsh Government

(11.00–11.10)

(Pages 41 – 46)

Paper 2 – Correspondence from the Welsh Government

7 Scrutiny of Digital Health and Care Wales: consideration of draft letters

(11.10–11.20)

(Pages 47 – 54)

Paper 3 – Scrutiny of Digital Health and Care Wales

8 Mental Health Inequalities – consideration of draft report

(11.20–12.15)

(Pages 55 – 154)

Paper 4 – Mental health inequalities: report publication

Paper 5 – Draft report

Paper 6 – Mental health inequalities online advisory group: summary of engagement findings

Agenda Item 2

Document is Restricted

1. Thank you for inviting Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to take part in the Health and Social Care Committee's horizon-scanning session to explore key issues affecting social care and social services.
2. To help inform the Committee's considerations, we have set out below the context in which CIW registers, regulates and inspects social care services and social services in Wales. We have detailed some basic information about the social care sector in Wales and our activity within it.

The role of CIW

3. CIW is the independent regulator of social care and childcare in Wales. We register, inspect and take action to improve the quality and safety of services for the well-being of the people of Wales.
4. We carry out functions on behalf of Welsh Ministers to provide assurance on the quality and safety of services. Our independence is protected through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Chief Inspector and the relevant Welsh Ministers. A copy of this MOU is available on the CIW website: <https://www.careinspectorate.wales/sites/default/files/2021-07/210720-MOU-welsh-ministers-en.pdf>.
5. We decide who can provide services; inspect and drive improvement of regulated services and local authority social services; undertake national reviews of social care services; take action to ensure services meet legislative and regulatory requirements and respond to concerns raised about care services.
6. CIW is responsible for regulating:
 - **adult services:** care homes for adults; domiciliary support services; adult placement services and residential family centre services
 - **children's services:** care homes for children; fostering services; adoption services; advocacy services and secure accommodation services
 - **childcare and play services:** child minders; crèches; full day care; sessional day care; out of school care and open access play provision
7. We also review the performance of local authorities in delivery of social services functions. We do this through a combination of inspection and performance evaluation activity. In addition, we inspect local authority fostering and adoption services; boarding schools; residential special schools (boarding arrangements under 295 days); further education colleges accommodating students under 18 and Cafcass Cymru.

Key issues affecting social care and social services

8. The past two years has been an incredibly difficult time for many. As we move slowly out of the pandemic, we must pay tribute to the social care and childcare and play workforce across Wales. They continue to show great skill and tenacity, working tirelessly as they face the many challenges the pandemic has exacerbated.
9. It remains extremely challenging for the sectors we regulate and inspect. Current pressures in the system, intensified by the cost-of-living crisis, threatens to undo the positive work during the pandemic when there was a real sense of agencies pulling together in partnership to support people.
10. In October 2022, CIW published its Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2021-22. Whilst there is much to celebrate, the report highlights continued concerns including:
 - Unprecedented increase in demand for care and support which has created significant pressure on services.
 - Recruitment and retention of social care workers remains far from sufficient leading to fragility in services, especially domiciliary support services.
 - Lack of suitable care and support placements for children with the most complex needs who are looked after.
11. What we see today is a health and care system that is gridlocked, with many social care leaders describing it in terms of crisis. We know many people delayed requesting services during the pandemic. This has led to an increase in demand for services to support people, many of whom have substantially more complex needs. We are also aware many local authorities are experiencing an increase in the volume of safeguarding referrals where people may be at risk of harm. In part this is due to lack of availability of care, support, and treatment services to meet people's needs.
12. Staff in social care want to deliver good, safe care but are struggling to do so. Staffing pressures across the social care sector continues to be one of the most significant issues raised with us by providers, with both recruitment and retention of staff being a particular concern. If this is not addressed at a national level, local authorities and social care providers risk not meeting their statutory and regulatory duties.
13. In many local authority areas across Wales, too many people are waiting for assessment of their needs. Even when people receive an assessment, many are then placed on a waiting list for domiciliary support and other services, such as occupational therapy and therapeutic services. We are also seeing domiciliary support providers handing back people's care to local authorities because they have insufficient staff to continue to meet people's needs. In addition, people's care and support plans are not being reviewed in line with the Social Services

and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the 2014 Act). This means when people's needs change and they may require more care, this is not being provided.

14. All of this is placing unsustainable pressure on carers, families and friends to fill the gaps. More support for unpaid carers is needed to enable them to continue in their caring role where they wish to do so. It is important carers are able to have an assessment of their needs, and they are treated as equal partners in the care of their family member or friends.
15. We are increasingly concerned about people being discharged from hospital to live in a care home on a temporary basis when their choice is to return home. It is essential people's rights are at the centre of all decision making. Where there is no alternative, it is important people receive the right support to maximise their independence whilst living at the care home. This means 'in reach' reablement services should be provided or care staff in care homes be supported to develop additional reablement skills.
16. In care homes for children, despite an increase in the number of places available, there continues to be a lack of appropriate provision for children and young people with the most complex emotional and behavioural needs. This includes a lack of secure children's home provision to ensure children's safety and well-being.
17. Whilst the impact of the pandemic on older people living in care homes is understood, we know much less about the experiences of people with a learning disability. Next year we will be prioritising work with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) to review how well the care, support and treatment needs of people with a learning disability are being met.
18. Continued development of preventative and early intervention support for people is vital. The momentum gained with the implementation of the 2014 Act and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) stalled, understandably, during the pandemic. We are concerned resource and capacity pressures now risk further undermining the development of these approaches and services.
19. Where through our work we identify poor outcomes that undermine the safety and well-being of people, this is usually linked to failings in leadership. Learning from the past, the 2016 Act redefined the role of the Responsible Individual (RI), and their leadership responsibility in ensuring services have a positive culture. This includes promoting the well-being of staff working in their services, alongside that of people receiving care and support. It is important to continue to realise the ambitions of the 2016 Act and to ensure RIs can access appropriate guidance to fulfil their role.
20. The sector is fragile and faces many ongoing challenges including financial sustainability. Solutions to the problems that affect people's care can only come from long term planning and investment, taking a whole system view that

recognises the relationship between health and social care and addresses the root causes of the immediate and obvious problems.

21. To ensure the people of Wales can access the care services they need, we must:

- ensure people using and working in care services have a voice
- ensure providers of social care services are treated as equal partners in care
- ensure carers are treated as equal partners in care, and have access to support in their own right
- have a step change in how we attract and retain people working in social care, ensuring parity of esteem and terms and conditions with those working in the NHS
- embed lessons from the past – learning from Operation Jasmine; and
- continue to work co-productively and collaboratively to ensure improvements continue to be made.

22. This requires strategic and operational commitment to providing seamless services to people with social care needs. Where this can be integrated across social care and healthcare, or education, it should be and any barriers to working in this way be addressed. Regional Partnership Boards have an important role in ensuring this.

23. We are committed to working with the Welsh Government, providers, local authorities and other partners and stakeholders to ensure improvements are made in the care sector. We are encouraging social care providers and commissioners to have early discussions with us about innovative models of care and how they can be designed to fit within the regulatory framework.

24. We will continue to put people at the centre of everything we do and are looking forward to working with the new Citizen Voice Body to help further their work and ensure the voice of people is heard.

25. We will also continue to raise awareness of findings from our inspection and regulatory activities. We will do this through our publications (including our inspection reports, national reviews and the Chief Inspector's annual report) and by actively seeking opportunities to raise awareness of our work with the public and wider partners.

26. As the independent regulator of social care and childcare, CIW will continue to provide assurance about the quality and safety of care services in Wales. There is much to be done but we must also share, celebrate and learn from the excellent work and good practice we see across Wales every day. We commonly find compassionate and dedicated staff, determined to deliver the highest levels of care to the people they care for. Examples of poor care are thankfully rare, but, where we do find poor care, we will, and do, take action.

Eluned Morgan

Minister for Health and Social Services

Welsh Government

26 September 2022

Dear Eluned

Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Act 2018

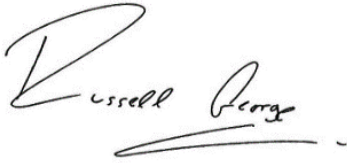
As you know, section 21 of the Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Act 2018 places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to report on the operation and effectiveness of the Act at the end of a five year period, and section 22 provides for minimum pricing provisions to be automatically repealed at the end of a six year period unless regulations are made to the contrary.

Although the five year period does not end until March 2025, the Committee would welcome information on your plans for evaluation of the legislation, particularly in light of the extensive research being carried out by Public Health Scotland to inform the evaluation of Scotland's minimum pricing legislation. In particular, we would be interested to hear:

- Who will be involved in carrying out the evaluation.
- What the specific areas of focus will be. For example, following the scrutiny of the Bill by the Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, we would welcome confirmation that the evaluation will look at the impact on alcohol consumption and related harm; impact on alcohol producers and retailers, substitution behaviour (i.e. people substituting alcohol for other substances, including illegal drugs), and the impact on need for alcohol treatment and support services).

I would be grateful for a response by 21 November 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Russell George MS,
Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff,
CF99 1SN
E-mail:

14 November 2022

Dear Russell George MS,

Thank you for your letter of 26th September 2022 to the Minister for Health and Social Services about Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Act 2018. I have been asked to respond as this area falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

On the 6th October 2022 I issued a Written Statement which provided an update on minimum unit pricing for alcohol and the two-year review of the implementation of the legislation. The Statement also highlights the specific areas of focus that the evaluation will cover and can be accessed on the following link: [Written Statement: Two-year review of minimum unit price for alcohol \(6 October 2022\) | GOV.WALES](#)

You also asked who the contractors were that were undertaking the evaluations. These are detailed below:

Lot 1: Contribution analysis - Consortium of Glyndwr University, Figure 8 Consultancy and University of South Wales, with Glyndwr University leading.

Lot 2: Research into the impact on retailers - NatCen Social Research

Lot 3: Work with services and service users - Consortium of Glyndwr University, Figure 8 Consultancy and University of South Wales, with Figure 8 Consultancy leading

Lot 4: Assessment of the impact of introducing minimum price for alcohol on wider population of drinkers - Consortium of Glyndwr University, Figure 8 Consultancy and University of South Wales, with University of South Wales leading

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mark Drakeford MS

First Minister

16 November 2022

Dear First Minister

Scrutiny of the financial implications of Bills

I am writing to you given your overarching responsibility for the Welsh Government's Legislative Programme.

The Finance Committee is deeply concerned that the Welsh Government has moved away from the practice in the Fifth Senedd of providing a written response to Committee Stage 1 reports before the Stage 1 debate takes place and before the Senedd is required to agree a Financial Resolution.

The Finance Committee's role is to consider the financial implications of Bills and our reports often conclude that we are content with the financial information contained alongside Government Bills subject to a commitment from the Minister to provide further financial information that we have requested. As the motion to agree a Financial Resolution usually takes place straight after the Stage 1 motion has been agreed, the Welsh Government's refusal to provide a formal response to our recommendations means that the Senedd is being asked to agree to committing resources before the Minister's views are known. We consider this to be unacceptable and it undermines the scrutiny process.

The Committee has considered the financial implications of all Bills that have been introduced this Senedd, excluding the consolidation Bill which is subject to different procedures. In our scrutiny of the first Bill introduced, the *Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill*, we set out our expectation for this Senedd that RIAs should contain the best estimate possible for costs and benefits to enable us to fully scrutinise the overall financial implications of a Bill. This built on issues outlined in the Fifth Senedd Finance Committee's Legacy Report which sets out further expectations in terms of the presentation of financial information that all Bills should adhere to.



We have recently received the Welsh Government's response to our recommendations on the *Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastics Products) (Wales) Bill*. The Committee was disappointed that in many cases the Minister has "agreed in principle" to provide further financial information requested. However, the preamble suggests that the Minister's officials are assessing the feasibility of updating the original cost and, if they are able to, "any work will take at least six months to complete". Even if the costs will be updated, the Bill is likely to have completed its legislative passage through the Senedd by the time the information is available.

This is simply not good enough. It is unhelpful to receive this information after the Senedd has already agreed to the Financial Resolution. It also undermines the Committee's efforts which, in turn, greatly increases the risk of the Senedd passing bad laws with uncertain financial outcomes that could place significant pressures on already stretched budgets.

We therefore request that Ministers revert to previous practice and provide a written response to the Finance Committee's recommendations prior to the Stage 1 debate and the consideration of a Financial Resolution as a matter of principle. This will ensure the Senedd is able to make an informed decision in relation to committing resources.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to your cabinet colleagues. I am also sending a copy to the Business Committee and Chairs of Policy Committees.

Yours sincerely



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.



We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Agenda Item 3.4

Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a
Cofal Cymdeithasol

Health and Social Care Committee

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
Seneddlechyd@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/Seneddlechyd
SeneddPlant@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddPlant
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddHealth@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddHealth
SeneddChildren@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddChildren
0300 200 6565

Lynne Neagle MS

Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Welsh Government

11 July 2022

Dear Lynne

Mental health and wellbeing: Committee recommendations

During the Fifth Senedd, the Health, Social Care and Sport, and Children, Young People and Education Committees did significant and substantial work on the mental health and wellbeing of people in Wales. We plan, through the work of our Sixth Senedd committees, to build on our predecessors' work on these important matters.

As the remits of our Committees overlap in respect of the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, we are writing jointly to seek an update on our predecessors' recommendations.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the issues raised in the annex by **1 September 2022**.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair, Children, Young People and Education
Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Annex: Request for information

To inform our Committees' work on mental health and wellbeing, for each of the reports listed below, we would welcome:

1. An indication of which recommendations the Welsh Government considers still to be outstanding and where further action is needed, whether there are any barriers to implementing these, and if so, what those barriers are.
2. How the Welsh Government's work to implement the recommendations is contributing to tackling mental health inequalities.

We would be grateful to receive your response by **1 September 2022**.

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee reports

The Fifth Senedd's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee maintained a determined focus on mental health. In addition to exploring issues relating to mental health throughout its scrutiny of Welsh Government budgets, general scrutiny of health and social care Ministers, and its other inquiry work, the Committee undertook inquiries on:

- Loneliness and isolation (December 2017)
The report made six recommendations, including: the timescales for developing a loneliness and isolation strategy; a cross-departmental approach (especially in relation to dementia and carers); assessing the impact of loneliness and isolation on mental health and the subsequent impact on public services; working with the voluntary sector to secure funding stability; evaluating the impact of intergenerational contact; and an awareness-raising campaign to change attitudes and address stigma. In its February 2018 response, the Welsh Government accepted four recommendations, and partially accepted two.
- Use of antipsychotic medication in care homes (May 2018)
The report made eleven recommendations, including: improving data collection and publication; compliance with NICE guidelines; person-centred care assessments for people with dementia; issues relating to medication reviews; access to allied health professionals; dementia care training; and a review of the levels and appropriateness of the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia in secondary care. In its July 2018 response, the Welsh Government accepted, or accepted in principle, ten of the recommendations, and rejected one. The Cabinet Secretary provided further information later the same month.
- Suicide prevention "Everybody's Business" (December 2018)
The report made 31 recommendations, including: suicide prevention training and promotion of existing resources; evaluation and rollout of suicide prevention initiatives and

referral pathways; parity of mental and physical health; an all-Wales triage model locating community psychiatric nurses in police control rooms; follow up care after discharge; waiting times for psychological therapies; a postvention suicide strategy and pathway; engagement with people with personal experience of suicide ideation, survivors of suicide attempts and people bereaved by suicide; targeted actions for at risk groups, including men, farmers, students and prisoners; considerations for planning authorities; media reporting; online safety; governance; and funding. The report also supported recommendations made by the CYPE Committee in its Mind Over Matter inquiry. In its January 2019 [response](#), the Welsh Government accepted 21 recommendations in full, and accepted eight more in principle. Of the remaining two recommendations, some elements were accepted in full, and others in principle.

- [Mental health in policing and police custody](#) (October 2019)
The report made eleven recommendations, including: detentions under the Mental Health Act; partnership working between police and health services; early intervention, mental health crisis and out of hours care; data collection and publication; care and treatment planning; conveyance; and the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Assurance Group. In its December 2019 [response](#), the Welsh Government accepted seven recommendations in full, three in principle, and rejected one.
- [Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, and its management, on health and social care in Wales: impact on mental health and wellbeing](#) (December 2020)
The report made 15 recommendations, including: planning for the short and long term mental health impact on the population and the health and social care workforce; monitoring the impact on self-harm and suicide; disconnects between health boards' assurances and patients' experiences; the mental health core dataset; a bereavement care framework; and urgently evaluating remote digital mental health service provision. The report also reiterated recommendations made in Everybody's Business and the CYPE Committee's Mind Over Matter reports on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. In its February 2021 [response](#), the Welsh Government accepted twelve recommendations in full, and three in principle. The then Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language [wrote](#) to the Fifth Senedd HSCS Committee in March 2021 to provide a detailed update on progress against the recommendations made in the Everybody's Business report.

Children, Young People and Education Committee reports

In a [Plenary statement](#) in January 2017, the chair of the Fifth Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee, Lynne Neagle MS, stated that members of the Committee were "incredibly passionate about the quality and provision of mental health services for young people". The

Committee carried out work relating to the mental health of children and young people and their families throughout the Fifth Senedd, including as part of the following inquiries:

- Perinatal mental health in Wales (October 2017) and Perinatal mental health – Follow up
The report made 27 recommendations, including that the Welsh Government: establishes a clinician-led managed clinical network; ensures that robust data is collected and monitored to understand the ongoing level of need for perinatal mental health support; creates a Mother and Baby Unit in south Wales; and explores with NHS England options for the creation of a centre in north east Wales. In its response, the Welsh Government rejected four recommendations, accepted four “in principle”, and accepted 19. The Committee carried out follow-up work to monitor the Welsh Government’s implementation of those recommendations between November 2018 and March 2021.
- Mind over matter (October 2018) and Mind over matter: Two years on (October 2020)
The Committee’s influential Mind over matter report made 28 recommendations. Its “key recommendation” was that the Welsh Government make the emotional and mental well-being and resilience of children and young people a stated national priority. Other recommendations considered issues such as support for mental health in schools, primary mental health support services, CAMHS services, suicide prevention, inpatient care, advocacy services and expenditure on emotional and mental health services. In its response, the Welsh Government rejected four recommendations, and partially or wholly accepted the others. The Welsh Government’s progress against those recommendations two years on from the original report’s publication is addressed in the Committee’s follow-up report Mind over matter: Two years on.

Agenda Item 3.5

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

16 November 2022

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 October 2022 setting out the views from the Committee in relation the request for an update on Mind Over Matter.

Since the publication of the Mind Over Matter Report in 2018, and the follow-up report in 2020 - a huge amount of work has been undertaken to improve the support available for children and young people's emotional and mental well-being. The Mind over Matter recommendations have been fundamental in shaping Welsh Government policy, for instance through our joint-Ministerial Whole School Approach, now Joint Ministerial Whole System Approach and the development and implementation of our NEST NYTH framework. Most notably we have:

- Published statutory guidance on the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in March 2021. We are continuing to work with schools and other partners to implement and embed the Framework, which is supported by implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales and the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience in particular. We have also made over £43m available jointly from health and education budgets over the course of the three-year budget period to enhance wellbeing in schools and support PfG commitments in relation to school counselling and the development of CAMHS school in-reach services.
- In further education over £10m of funding has been allocated since 2020 to support the mental health and wellbeing of staff and learners. Institutional projects support the appointment and training of staff; collaborative projects bring colleges together to develop new strategies and share resources; and national projects support colleges in developing resources and initiatives on areas such as substance misuse, active wellbeing, Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- All our universities have well-being and health strategies in place. HEFCW monitors the implementation of the strategies to ensure they are appropriately ambitious and respond effectively to the needs of staff and students in HE. HEFCW have also embedded the Universities UK: Stepchange mentally healthy university and Suicide Safer frameworks within their policy work. In order to be eligible for health and well-being funding HEFCW expects HE institutions to sign up to UUK's #stepchange and Suicide Safer Universities frameworks and ensure that their expenditure plans align with the approaches outlined.
- We have invested significantly in tier 0/1 support to provide easy access to a range of support for children and young people – including the CALL Mental Health Helpline, Young Persons Mental Health Toolkit and BEAT's Eating Disorder helpline.
- We have also invested to establish a Wales wide offer, where young people and their families can access free online mental health support, without needing to be referred by a GP. This online therapy now has a suite of support programmes designed to help young people manage their mental health and wellbeing. Parents and carers can sign up for a free 12-week online therapy programme to help children and young people aged 4-18 with mild-to-moderate anxiety. Teenagers aged 16-18 can also sign up themselves, without needing adult consent, for support with anxiety or low mood directly via their mobile, tablet or laptop.
- We are also investing in crisis care with roll out of the all age 111 press 2 option for urgent mental health. Hywel Dda University Health Board is the first to establish this service on a 24/7 basis and all health boards are working towards implementation. As part of the Co-operation Agreement, we have also recently agreed four pilots to test alternatives to admission for young people in crisis.
- All health boards have made progress in improving eating disorder services and are working towards earlier intervention and achieving a 4-week waiting time for assessment. We have also commissioned a feasibility study to investigate the potential for a specialist eating disorder unit here in Wales.
- We have developed the NEST/NYTH Framework as a planning tool for RPBs to implement a Whole System Approach in their areas. We have recently appointed a NEST Implementation Lead who is working across Government, with RPBs and external stakeholders to truly embed NYTH/NEST in children and young people's policy and services.

The Committee will be aware that the current 10 year Together for Mental Health Strategy is coming to an end this year and work is underway to develop the successor strategy. As part of this process, we are reviewing the work already undertaken to take forward and embed the Committee's Mind Over Matter recommendations and identify remaining work that will need to shape the new national Together for Mental Health strategy. We will be taking a thematic approach to this and will provide the Committee with an update on progress in the New Year.

In the meantime, there is a Committee session planned with the Minister for Education and Welsh Language and myself on 23 November, when I am happy to answer any questions on progress against the Mind over Matter recommendations. I am also very happy to attend a separate scrutiny session with the Committee on Mind Over Matter if the Committee would prefer to do that.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle', written in a cursive style.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Eluned Morgan
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government

26 September 2022

Dear Eluned

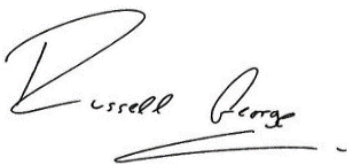
Follow up on Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recommendations: Hepatitis C:
Progress towards achieving elimination in Wales

Thank you for your letter of 30 August 2022, providing an update on the recommendations made in the Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's report on progress towards achieving elimination of Hepatitis C.

I note from your response that it is your intention to set out your expectations including priority actions and targets for the NHS and Area Planning Boards in communications this autumn. The Committee would welcome sight of these communications, along with clarification of the planned timescale for the publication of the Liver disease quality statement.

I would be grateful for a response by 21 November 2022.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 3.7

HSC(6)-10-22 PTN 7

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Russell George MS
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee

SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

21 November 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your letter of 26 September 2022 regarding progress made towards achieving elimination of hepatitis C in Wales.

Since I last wrote to you, I have set up a Welsh Government-led oversight group to ensure there is a renewed focus on driving forward elimination of hepatitis B&C in Wales. This group includes a broad range of stakeholders, with representatives of the health boards, Public Health Wales and third sector organisations.

The first meeting was on November 15 and my officials shared our planned expectations and targets for the NHS and Area Planning Boards. Following review of the feedback received from the oversight group, I will be issuing a Welsh Health Circular which I will share with the committee, along with a written statement, when it is distributed across the system.

I can tell the committee that the Liver Diseases Quality Statement is scheduled to be published in December and that will also be shared with you.

Please pass on my thanks to the Committee for their continued interest in this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Russell George MS,
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

21 November 2022

Dear Russell

I am writing to give you early notification of an amending SI entitled the Food Supplement and Food for Specific Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2022 which will be laid before UK Parliament on (14 December 2022) to come into force on 18 January 2023, except for the amendment to update the unit of measurement used for copper in food supplements, which will come into force on 11 July 2024 to allow for an 18 month transition period.

The proposed SI will amend the following legislation to effect changes in Scotland, Wales and England.

- The Nutrition (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/651) as amended,
- Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control and repealing Council Directive 92/52/EEC, Commission Directives 96/8/EC, 1999/21/EC, 2006/125/EC and 2006/141/EC, Directive 2009/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulations (EC) No 41/2009 and (EC) No 953/2009¹,
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/127 of 25 September 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specific compositional and information requirements for infant formula and follow-on formula and as regards requirements on information relating to infant and young child feeding and,

¹ Retained EU regulation as amended by The Nutrition (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and 2020

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/128 of 25 September 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specific compositional and information requirements for food for special medical purposes


These amendments will:

- update the unit of measurement used for copper in food supplements;
- update the unit of measurement used for zinc in food supplements;
- update the forms of niacin which are permitted for use in the manufacture of food supplements to include nicotinamide riboside chloride;
- update the forms of magnesium which are permitted for use in the manufacture of food supplements to include magnesium citrate malate;
- update the forms of folate that are permitted for use in the manufacture of infant formula and follow-on formula (IFFOF) to include calcium L-methylfolate;
- update the forms of folate that are permitted for use in the manufacture of processed cereal-based foods and baby foods to include calcium L-methylfolate;
- standardise the definition of pesticide residues used in the regulations on IFFOF; and
- standardise the definition of pesticide residues used in the regulations on food for special medical purposes developed to satisfy the nutritional requirements of infants and young children (iFSMPs).

There is no divergence between the Welsh Government and the UK Government (Department of Health and Social Care) on the policy for the corrections. Therefore, making separate SIs in Wales and England would lead to duplication, and unnecessary complication of the statute book. Consenting to a UK wide SI ensures that there is a single legislative framework across the UK which promotes clarity and accessibility. In this circumstance, the Welsh Government considers it appropriate that the UK Government legislates on our behalf in this instance.

I have also sent a letter to the Chair of the Children, Young People, and Education Committee and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
(via email)

22 November 2022

Dear Mr George,

I am pleased to write to you commending two recent Office for Statistics Regulation reports. The *2022 update: lessons learned for health and social care statistics from the COVID-19 pandemic*¹ was published on 1 November and is an insightful analysis of the last year of the pandemic. The *Annual Review of Casework for 2021/22*² was published on 20 October which highlighted that the trends in casework remain higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Lessons learned

In its 2021 report³, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) highlighted the vital role that data and statistics played during the pandemic in supporting individuals to reach informed decisions. It has been possible to meet the increased analytical demands of the pandemic thanks to the extraordinary, dedicated efforts of statisticians and analysts across governments.

In its 2022 update, much like the UK's health and care services, OSR has found a statistical system which is transitioning from pandemic crisis mode to living with COVID-19. While the intense analytical demands of the pandemic have eased, a real challenge is maintaining some level of analysis relating to COVID-19 while publishing new statistics to measure emerging issues, such as new disease outbreaks, and re-invigorating 'business as usual' statistics, such as those on NHS performance and the health and social care workforces. In the context of the increased demands on producers, we have identified four key areas which support the production of statistics which serve the public good:

- Horizon scanning – understanding what information people need
- Availability – ensuring data and statistics are made available in an accessible and transparent way
- Collaboration – sharing data, plugging gaps and improving coherence and comparability

¹ <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/lessons-learned-for-health-and-social-care-statistics-from-the-covid-19-pandemic-2022-update/>

² <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/annual-review-of-uk-statistics-authority-casework-2021-22/pages/1/>

³ <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/improving-health-and-social-care-statistics-lessons-learned-from-the-covid-19-pandemic/pages/1/>

- Communication – continuing to innovate and communicate statistics in a clear and engaging way to a wide range of users

We have seen many improvements to health and social care statistics over the last year. We have found a better understanding of the need for transparency of numbers used publicly by governments and are encouraged by new statistics published on topics of high public interest and ongoing efforts to fill existing data gaps. However, there is still progress to be made against several recommendations in our 2021 report, such as improving, where possible, the comparability of statistics across the UK and overcoming barriers to data sharing.

There are developments relating to health and social care data in Wales which we consider will support producers in their ability to provide timely information and analysis to support future decision-making. The ongoing transformation of health and social care using digital and data services⁴ presents several opportunities to improve the development and effectiveness of statistics, including the development of the National Data Resource⁵ and a strategic approach to social care data⁶. I look forward to the successful implementation of these strategies, and trust that sufficient resource will be made available to turn new operational data into published statistics.

Annual Review of Casework

As the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm, OSR investigates all cases reported to the Authority by members of the public, politicians, the media and third sector organisations, as well as issues identified through internal processes, to stand up for statistics that serve the public good.

The increased public interest in data experienced during the pandemic has been maintained, with over half (52%) of all casework relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other topics raised included population, crime and labour market. The largest proportion of cases in 2021/22 related to use/misuse of statistics (41% of all cases). These cases often related to concerns about statistics being used (most commonly by a public figure or a public body) in a way which someone considered to be potentially misleading. Most casework came from the public, with none being raised by members of the Welsh Parliament.

Please do let me know if you have any questions about either of the aforementioned reports, or anything else regarding the work of the Authority.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Robert Chote
Chair

⁴ <https://gov.wales/written-statement-transforming-health-and-social-care-using-digital-and-data-services>

⁵ <https://ndr.cymru/>

⁶ <https://socialcare.wales/research-and-data/strategic-approach-data/approach-to-data>

Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure
Committee
Llyr Gruffydd MS

Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and
International Relations Committee
Delyth Jewell MS

Chair of the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Paul Davies MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee
Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Finance Committee
Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee
Russell George MS

Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee
John Griffiths MS

23 November 2022

The Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2023-24

Dear colleagues,

The Children, Young People and Education Committee recently considered how to approach its scrutiny of the Welsh Government's 2023-24 Draft Budget.

We have committed in our [Sixth Senedd strategy](#) to seek out opportunities to work with other Senedd committees where there are areas of shared interest and where it will improve scrutiny. We therefore asked officials supporting the Children, Young People and Education Committee to share any relevant written evidence we receive and briefing information with other Senedd committees to support holistic, joined-up scrutiny of the Draft Budget across the Senedd.

We have also asked officials to be mindful of where we may be coming to similar views to another committee about matters that straddle committees' remits, with a view to proposing joint recommendations if appropriate. During scrutiny of the 2022-23 Draft Budget, we and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee made a joint recommendation relating to transparency of one particular funding stream - an important matter of principle for both committees. I believe the joint recommendation added weight to our shared views.

I would be very grateful for your reciprocal support on the above issues.

We also agreed that our scrutiny of the Draft Budget will include consideration of the following cross-cutting issues:

- the Welsh Government's so-called 'revised baseline': how clearly and accurately it presents changes in expenditure from one year to the next.
- how the Draft Budget impacts different groups of people and how well these impacts are taken into account in the Welsh Government's Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment (SIIA). The Welsh Government has assured us that the SIIA sets out the contextual evidence that supports its spending decisions. However, we do not believe that the SIIA published alongside the 2022-23 Draft Budget clearly demonstrated its compliance with its duties under the Rights of the Child and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. We believe that a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) should be undertaken for the Draft Budget as a whole and published as a standalone document.

These issues, or closely related issues, may be relevant to your Committee's consideration of the 2023-24 Draft Budget. If so, I would welcome any opportunities for coordinated scrutiny. I have asked officials supporting the Children, Young People and Education Committee to pursue any such opportunities, depending on your views and those of your fellow committee members.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Agenda Item 6

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 7

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 8

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted