

Agenda – Health and Social Care Committee

Meeting Venue:

Hybrid – Committee Room 5, Ty Hywel
and video conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 2 April 2025

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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Private pre-meeting

(09.00–09.30)

Public meeting

(9.30 –11.45)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Prevention of ill health – obesity : evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

(9.30–11.00)

(Pages 1 – 25)

Jeremy Miles – Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Research brief

Paper 1 – Welsh Government response to the Health and Social Care Committee’s request for information to inform the inquiry into the prevention of ill health – obesity

Break

(11.00–11.15)

3 Prevention of ill health – obesity: evidence session – panel 1 1

(11.15–11.45)

Judith Gregory, Education Catering Business Manager, Cardiff Council



Tracy James, Senior Operations Manager, Catering and Cleaning – Torfaen
County Borough Council

4 Paper(s) to note

(11.45)

4.1 Letter from the NHS Wales Chief Executive to the Auditor General for Wales – Review of Cancer Services

(Pages 26 – 35)

4.2 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee – Inter-Ministerial Group for Health and Social Care

(Page 36)

4.3 Letter from Public Health Wales – Expenditure within Public Health Wales on Tobacco Control

(Pages 37 – 38)

4.4 Letter from Chair of Petitions Committee re Petition P-06-1400 Fair and Adequate Resourcing of General Practice in Wales.

(Pages 39 – 40)

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

(11.45)

Private meeting

(11.45–12.30)

6 Prevention of ill health – obesity: consideration of evidence

(11.45 –12.05)

7 Legislative Consent: Mental Health Bill – consideration of draft report

(12.05 –12.25)

(Pages 41 – 82)

Paper 2 – Legislative Consent Memorandum: Mental Health Bill draft report

8 Supporting people with chronic conditions: Welsh Government response to Committee's report

(12.25–12.30)

(Pages 83 – 111)

Research brief

Paper 3 – Supporting people with chronic conditions: Welsh Government's response to Committee's report

Agenda Item 2

Document is Restricted



Health and Social Care Committee's request for evidence

Prevention of ill health - obesity

April 2025

This document is a response to the Health and Social Care Committee's request for information to inform the inquiry into the prevention of ill health - obesity.

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1. Policy and regulatory framework

The policy and regulatory framework in relation to preventing and reducing obesity in Wales is set out in our 10-year strategy 'Health Weight: Health Wales'.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales

The key components are:

- Healthy Environments: Creating environments that support healthy choices, such as improving access to healthy foods and promoting physical activity
- Healthy Settings: Implementing health-promoting initiatives in schools, workplaces, and communities to encourage healthier lifestyles
- Healthy People: Providing support for individuals to achieve and maintain a healthy weight through various programmes and services
- Leadership and Enabling Change: Ensuring strong leadership and collaboration across sectors to drive the strategy forward.

The strategy responds to the social and commercial determinants of obesity and overweight through several key initiatives:

Social Determinants

Initiatives to

- Enhance the availability and affordability of nutritious foods in communities, especially in areas with limited access
- Support local food initiatives to increase fresh produce availability
- Create safe and accessible spaces for physical activity, such as parks, green spaces and active recreational facilities.
- Encourage active transport through infrastructure improvements
- Implement educational programs in schools and communities to promote healthy eating and active lifestyles.
- Raise awareness about the benefits of maintaining a healthy weight

Commercial Determinants

Supporting Healthier Food Environments, including through:

- Restricting the marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages, particularly to children
- Promoting responsible advertising practices that encourage healthier choices

- Working with the food industry to reformulate products to reduce sugar, salt, and fat content
- Encouraging retailers to promote healthier options through pricing and placement strategies
- Promoting the availability of healthy food options in public sector settings.

Delivery

The strategy is delivered through five two-year plans and is supported by the following programmes funded from the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales budget:

HWHW Funded Programmes 2025/2026	Amount
PIPYN Children and Family Pilots provide support for families with young children to make healthy lifestyle choices. The programme is also part of a wider systems approach, to provide healthier settings and environments for children and families.	£0.6m
Physical Activity element, PIPYN Children and Families Pilots	£0.1m
Whole Systems Approach Work – funding for regional healthy weight teams within health boards to empower and enable local leadership to identify systemic causes of obesity and take effective action to enable sustainable change.	£1.2m
Behaviour Change – funding for Public Health Wales to further develop and promote Healthy Weight Healthy You - a website which provides free universal healthy weight information, advice and resources	£0.2m
All Wales Diabetes Prevention Pilot Programme - a pilot programme aimed to prevent type 2 diabetes in Wales, which is managed nationally by Public Health Wales and delivered regionally by health boards.	£0.8m
The 60+ Active Leisure Scheme aims to increase physical activity in the 60 + age group, the programme is managed by Sport Wales and delivered regionally through local authorities.	£0.5m
FIT FANS offers free 12-week fitness sessions aimed at men and women aged 35 to 65 who are living with obesity, the sessions are delivered by coaching staff at specific regional football clubs. The scheme is managed by the Football Association Wales working in collaboration with the English Football League Trust.	£0.218m

Total	£3.618m
Remaining commitments - to be informed through the 2025-27 Delivery Plan	£0.424m
Total Budget	£4.042m

2. Addressing the impact of social and commercial determinants on obesity

The strategy takes a whole system approach in considering how socioeconomic and environmental factors impact on the opportunities available for people to eat healthier food and be active.

Healthier Food Environments

In 2022, Welsh Government consulted on a package of healthy food environment measures, designed to support consumers to make healthier choices in both the retail and out of home sector, focused on three main themes:

Healthier Shopping Baskets:

- Encouraging retailers to promote healthier food options.
- Implementing measures to make nutritious foods more accessible and affordable

Healthier Eating Out of the Home:

- Improving the availability of nutritional information in restaurants and food outlets.
- Encouraging food establishments to offer healthier menu options

Healthier Local Food Environments:

- Promoting positive choices at hot food takeaways.
- Supporting local initiatives to create environments that encourage healthy eating

In tandem, Welsh Government also consulted on a proposal to restrict the sale of energy drinks to children under 16. This consultation was followed by a call for evidence in relation to energy drink consumption by children in 2024. The call for evidence aimed to gather additional information on the health and societal impacts of energy drink consumption in children to support Welsh Government's decision on how to proceed with this area of policy.

The Food (Promotion and Presentation) (Wales) Regulations 2025

The Food (Promotion and Presentation) (Wales) Regulations 2025 were laid on 11 February 2025 and mark the first phase of regulatory action to be taken forward following Welsh Government's 2022 Healthy Food Environment consultation. The regulations are due to come into force in 2026 and will restrict the promotion of high fat, salt and sugar foods and their display at key selling locations within the retail sector and free refills on sugary drinks in both the retail and out of home sector.

Health inequalities

The **Universal Primary Free School Meals** initiative aims to tackle child poverty and ensure no child goes hungry at school. The scheme ensures that all primary school children can access a free healthy and nutritious lunch.

Our **Food in Schools offer** is underpinned by the **Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements (Wales) Regulations) 2013**. These set out the types of food and drink that may be provided during the school day and define the nutrient content of school lunches. All food provided in maintained schools (nursery, primary and secondary settings) including all Free School Meals, should adhere to these regulations. A review of the Regulations is currently underway. This is in line with the commitment made in **Healthy Weight: Healthy Weight Strategy** to tackle obesity.

The **school milk scheme** ensures that in Wales, those schools who opt-in are provided with free milk for foundation phase pupils and subsidised milk for those in KS2 (years 3-6).

The school-based '**Food and Fun**' **School Holiday Enrichment Programme** provides food and nutrition education, physical activity and enrichment sessions in areas of socio-economic disadvantage for a minimum of 12 days during the school summer holidays.

The **Pupil Development Grant (PDG)** aims to raise the attainment of children and young people from low-income households. The grant is delivered directly to schools and educational settings to adopt whole school approaches that benefit all learners, with a particular focus on supporting the needs of disadvantaged learners. For example, schools can allocate PDG funds to purchase cooking ingredients and equipment needed for lessons that teach students essential life skills like preparing healthy meals.

The **School Essentials Grant** provides financial support to low-income families to help cover various school-related costs. In addition to financial help towards school uniform and classroom essentials it can also help fund sports kits and equipment for after-school activities and can be used to support practical learning experiences such as cooking and nutrition education.

The **Community Food Strategy** aims to encourage the production and supply of affordable locally sourced food in Wales. It focuses on invigorating and supporting grassroots food-related initiatives and improving the focus on food matters in policy making, planning, and service delivery at a community scale.

Towards this goal, the Welsh Government has committed funding of over £2m, in 2025-26, to further develop the network of **Local Food Partnerships** across Wales. The purpose of this investment is to support the development and long-term viability of local and affordable food initiatives by building strong relationships between them and the communities they serve. Grant funding objectives for Local Food Partnerships include a focus on the local availability, access and consumption of healthy, affordable and nutritious food for all community citizens, including for those with protected characteristics.

The **Active Travel Delivery Plan 2024-2027** sets out in more detail how the Welsh Government and its delivery partners will implement the active travel commitments in **Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy** and the **National Transport Delivery Plan**

and increase modal shift by making active travel easier to access, more attractive to use and more inclusive.

An **Active Travel to School Hub** has been established within the Welsh Government which will consolidate efforts and improve coordination by supporting current initiatives such as the Safe Routes in Communities (SRiC) Grant and directly funded programmes like Active Journeys and WOW Walk to School. The hub will also support collaboration through initiatives like comprehensive mapping of active travel data, developing School Streets guidance, and collaborating with Public Health Wales and Welsh Government colleagues in education. The ultimate goal is to develop a single point for the co-ordination and delivery of active travel to schools across Wales.

3. Interventions in pregnancy and early childhood to promote good nutrition and prevent obesity

Eating well and being active early on helps children feel good, play, learn, and grow strong. The following Interventions are in place to ensure that every child has the best start in life.

Children and Family Pilots

The **PIPYN pilot programme**, funded through Healthy Weight Healthy Wales, focuses on reducing inequalities by addressing different challenges in the following three areas which have high levels of childhood obesity: Anglesey, Cardiff, and Merthyr.

The programme is a nested intervention based on 'Every Child Wales, 10 steps to a healthy weight' and is part of a wider systems approach to provide healthier settings and environments for young children and their families. The programme aims to foster collaboration among local bodies to remove barriers and increase opportunities for families to eat healthily and be active.

The pilots trial new approaches to engaging and supporting families to achieve a healthy weight without stigma for the child or family. The programme provides one-to-one or group support to families as well as free and fun local events and initiatives focused on nutrition, cooking skills, and the importance of physical activity. The programme aims to equip families with access to the resources and knowledge they need to make healthier lifestyle choices.

The family pilots have already engaged with hundreds of families, supporting them to adopt healthier lifestyles. The Children and Family Pilots (PIPYN) are currently being evaluated.

Healthy Child Wales, Flying Start, Families First

Health Visitors provide the **Healthy Child Wales** programme which supports the health and welfare of early years children. The programme delivers key public health messages from conception to 7 years, so that families are supported to make long term health enhancing choices. The programme mandates nine specific contacts with health professionals.

In April 2024, Welsh Government published a new unified operating model to underpin the existing school nursing frameworks in Wales. The operating model will effectively

extend the Healthy Child Wales Programme to all compulsory school-aged children. The NHS in Wales has two years to fully implement the model across Wales.

Flying Start aims to give children under four years in the most deprived areas the best start in life by supporting their Early Childhood Play, Learning, and Care. Eligible families should receive an enhanced level of health visiting support as well as parental support beyond the universal Healthy Child Wales offer, with those with the greatest need receiving more support. Flying Start support includes the promotion of key public health messages and healthy lifestyles, and also involves multi-agency work, such as collaborating with Families First and other initiatives to promote nutrition and physical activity guidance.

The **Families First programme** is designed to improve outcomes for the whole family, with a focus on protecting the rights and wellbeing of babies, children and young people. Based on a population needs analysis, it can include a broad range of interventions, including initiatives focused on nutrition, cooking skills, and the importance of physical activity, ensuring families have access to the resources and knowledge they need to make healthier lifestyle choices. The programme also plays a critical role in embedding health and well-being practices within schools, childcare settings, and community spaces.

Healthy Start

The **Healthy Start Scheme** is a UK Government initiative designed to reduce economic and health inequalities by supporting families on the lowest incomes by providing help to buy fruit, vegetables, milk, and infant formula, as well as free Healthy Start Vitamins.

To increase the promotion of the scheme the Welsh Government commissioned the development of mandatory Healthy Start training for all health professionals working with pregnant women and families with children under 4. This includes modules on nutrition for mothers, infants and young children.

Also to increase promotion, the Welsh Government have made existing promotional materials bilingual and distributed throughout Wales.

Playworks holiday project

The **Playworks Holiday Project** supports children's access to play opportunities and aims to tackle holiday hunger by providing free food and snacks at play schemes during the holiday periods.

We will be investing £5m in 2025-2026 to support children's play opportunities in improving the quality of play spaces and playgrounds. The capital funding will give local authorities the flexibility to purchase large scale items to improve the quality of play spaces, refurbish playgrounds and support in creating inclusive and accessible play spaces.

In taking forward Ministerial Review of Play Actions we will continue to work with local authorities and key stakeholders to support our ambitions in improving opportunities to play, and promote the benefits of play for children's wellbeing.

Guidance in Regulated Childcare Settings

Childcare providers are required to meet National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years. The standards include a requirement for settings to provide regular drinks and food which should be safely prepared, nutritionally balanced, of good quality and in adequate quantities for their needs. The Welsh Government's **Best Practice Guidance Food and Nutrition for Childcare Settings** supports childcare providers to meet these standards.

The National Minimum Standards also require settings to ensure that children have a range of learning and play experiences, including opportunities to be active, indoors and out. Guidance on early childhood play, learning and care is available via Hwb and stresses the importance of physical activity in the early years for cognition, learning and wellbeing as well as physical development.

All-Wales Breastfeeding action plan

The Welsh Government launched the **All-Wales Breastfeeding 5-year action plan** in July 2019 (AWBAP). The plan identifies strategic goals and aims to guide action for the immediate support for women and families for breastfeeding, together with wider actions to support continued feeding for those mothers who are working and for the wider population health so that breastfeeding is a culturally accepted, supported option. There are Infant Feeding Leads in all health boards across Wales who coordinate the support provided to breastfeeding mothers, as well as support delivery of the breastfeeding action plan.

The plan is currently being reviewed to inform the development of an Infant Feeding Action Plan.

4. People's ability to access appropriate support and treatment services for obesity

The All-Wales Weight Management Pathway is a structured framework designed to support effective weight management services across Wales.

Weight Management Services

This pathway seeks to improve outcomes for individuals by ensuring that all levels of service are built on a shared understanding of the complexity of factors which lead to overweight and obesity. The importance of psychological factors including trauma in addressing overweight and obesity means that a psychologically informed approach should be central to all weight management services to help support positive lifestyle change

The pathway focuses on the weight management journey, from early intervention to specialist support and is divided into four levels:

Level 1: Advice and Self-Directed Support - This includes initial advice and resources for individuals to manage their weight independently through the Healthy Weight Health You [website](#).

Level 2: Multi-Component Weight Management Services – this includes more structured programmes that are organised and commissioned by local health boards, and often delivered through commercial providers, which include dietary, physical activity, and behavioural components. To support the level 2 offer, Welsh Government funds **FIT FANS** which is a free 12-week healthy living and weight loss programme for men and women aged 35 to 65 who want to lose weight and get fitter. FIT FANS is a collaboration between the Football Association of Wales and the English Football League Trust (EFL Trust) with sessions delivered by coaching staff at local professional football clubs across Wales.

Level 3: Specialist Multi-Disciplinary Assessment and Weight Management Service - This level involves more intensive support from a team of specialists. This support could include weight loss drugs. People who meet the clinical guidelines for prescription are also given support with diet and physical activity.

Level 4: Specialist Surgical Services - This includes surgical interventions for weight management when other methods have not been successful

The provision of weight management services in Wales are developed, funded and provided by local health boards in response to the needs of the local population.

Psychological factors underpinning overweight and obesity

There is a very strong link between mental health and trauma and obesity. For this reason, the All-Wales Weight Management Pathway emphasises the need for primary and community care practitioners to be alert to the potential for psychological factors underpinning overweight and obesity. This may be in the form of an eating disorder such as binge eating, disordered eating more generally or previous psychological trauma including adverse childhood experiences. These individuals should be referred to level 3 services to enable a full multi-disciplinary assessment, including from a psychologist. The psychologist will assess their history and current experience of mental health issues, disordered eating and eating disorders, trauma and weight stigma.

Services such as Healthy Weight Healthy You include questions designed to identify people with underlying psychological causes for their overweight or obesity and signposts specialist support.

Reducing Stigma and discrimination

The All-Wales weight management pathway includes fundamentals for service design and delivery. These include that services must be person-centred, empathetic, respectful and non-judgemental. There should be a strong focus on building self-esteem, self-efficacy and resilience to enable people to manage their weight in the long-term. Training on motivational interviewing and empathetic listening is available to support staff to understand weight stigma and communicate sensitively and effectively with those living with overweight and obesity.

5. International examples of success

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales takes forward a whole system approach drawing on international case studies.

Whole Systems Approach

We provide funding for regional healthy weight teams within health boards to empower and enable local leadership to identify systemic causes of obesity and take effective action to enable sustainable change.

The complexity of the problem means that there are no simple solutions and no one agency or organisation can solve it alone. We all have a role to play. Taking a whole system approach presents an opportunity to do this and is at the front and centre of our delivery plan. It is 'a dynamic way of working, that brings together stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of the challenge, and integrate action to bring about sustainable, long-term change'. It also is about understanding the levers for change, recognising their interdependencies. Several international case studies have also shown, with concerted and sustained effort, promising results in reducing childhood obesity through taking a whole system approach.

We have been working both nationally and locally to embed a whole system approach to healthy weight. Regional whole system teams within Health Boards have engaged extensively with local and national agencies and groups across Wales. Public Health Wales are supporting the regional whole system teams, ensuring consistency of approach and monitoring and evaluating progress. The focus so far has been making the case for collective action and building the importance of healthy weight into the strategic plans of public sector bodies. Each area has also been working with stakeholders and partners to identify priority areas for change, using the latest system tools. These are:

- Access to healthier food for our children and young people.
- Healthier food outlets in the out of home sector.
- Increasing opportunities for spaces for children to run and play
- Healthier advertising in our high streets
- Safer community spaces creating spaces for active travel

Agenda Item 4.1

**Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Grŵp Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r
Blynyddoedd Cynnar / Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru**

**Director General Health, Social Care & Early Years Group / NHS
Wales Chief Executive**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
Audit Wales
1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Our Ref: JP/AD/SB

17 March 2025

Dear Adrian

Auditor General for Wales Review of Cancer Services in Wales

Thank you again to you and your colleagues for the work and engagement that has taken place with the Welsh Government and NHS Executive to deliver the Audit Wales Cancer Services in Wales report. We are committed to improving cancer services and welcome your findings and recommendations.

We have given each recommendation careful consideration and are pleased to now share our final response. We have provided a summarised narrative, completion date and responsible officer for each recommendation.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of the next phase of your work, as we utilise your recommendations to improve the strategic approach to cancer diagnosis and treatment in Wales.

Yours Sincerely

Judith Paget CBE



Management response form



Report title: Cancer Services in Wales: A review of the strategic approach to improving the timeliness of diagnosis and treatment

Completion date: 14/01/25

Ref	Recommendation	Management response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer (title)
R1	The Welsh Government should publicly clarify the status of the Cancer Improvement Plan and its links to the National Cancer Recovery Programme and the Cancer: Improving Outcomes initiative. As part of this the Welsh Government should clarify how it intends to hold NHS bodies to account for delivery of the Cancer Improvement Plan.	Accept. The Welsh Government will update the Quality Statement for Cancer to clarify the respective roles of the Cancer Recovery Programme, Cancer improvement Plan, and other important national work streams such as the Making it Happen initiative. This will include a description of accountability arrangements.	End quarter 1 2025-26	Sue Tranka Chief Nursing Officer
R2	The Welsh Government should set out a coherent model for system leadership in respect of cancer services that clarifies its own role and that of the NHS Executive and sets out how it will bring on board clinicians and other key stakeholders to build a common view of	Accept. The Welsh Government is in the process of finalising a revised governance and leadership model for cancer service development. This will include the introduction of a National Cancer Leadership Board	End quarter 4 2024-25	Nick Wood Deputy Chief Executive, NHS Wales

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Ref	Recommendation	Management response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer (title)
	cancer service performance, quality and opportunities for improvement.	that will coordinate or lead on national actions. The NHS Executive will provide the clinical, third sector, and private sector input to its work. This model will continue to develop in response to the feedback of those directly involved and those involved through related leadership groups. These arrangements will be described in the updated Quality Statement for Cancer.		
R3	The Welsh Government should review its oversight and performance framework in respect of cancer services to focus on a broader range of issues, including a more explicit alignment to the ambitions and quality attributes set out in the Quality Statement for Cancer.	Accept. The NHS Performance Framework only includes the top-level strategic metrics for the NHS; it does not include all the metrics that are routinely applied in accountability processes. There are a broader set of metrics which sit outside the Framework. This includes component waits in the cancer pathway, access to treatment measures, data on care quality and outcome, screening and immunisation uptake, and patient outcomes. The broader set of metrics	End quarter 1 2025-26	Jeremy Griffith Director of Operations

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		are used as part of routine accountability process as required. The updated Quality Statement for Cancer will include additional detail to explain how cancer service delivery will be measured.		
R4	The Welsh Government should develop a more coherent approach to population health improvement by setting out how it intends to use its Science Evidence Advice: NHS in 10+ Years to harness the opportunities associated with prevention to reduce the incidence of cancer and other major conditions.	<p>The Welsh Government pursues an evidence-led approach to prevention and to reducing population-level risk for cancer and major conditions. There are established programmes for smoking prevention through the Smoke Free Wales Strategy and Tobacco Control Delivery Plan (with additional supportive legislation imminent) and on tackling overweight and obesity, through the Healthy Weight Healthy Wales strategy and delivery plan, including through the facilitation of physical activity. These programmes are under constant review and development as new evidence and technologies emerge.</p> <p>The NHS Planning Framework for 2025-28 has population health and prevention as one of the five</p>	Establishment of preventing ill-health advisory group by end quarter 1 2025-26	<p>Sioned Rees</p> <p>Director for Public Health Protection</p>

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		<p>priority areas and this will support a further drive and focus on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention interventions in the plans of NHS organisations.</p> <p>We are also in the process of establishing a preventing ill-health advisory group under the Chief Medical Officer to support and harness opportunities to implement sustainable, evidence informed policies that focus on preventing ill-health and related inequalities. The initial focus will be on securing and measuring funding of ill-health prevention, strengthening the current architecture, progressing work on data, and supporting the cross-government role in prevention of ill-health. The establishment of this group will assist in providing sustained engagement and a coherent, coordinated approach to the development of appropriate policy and system responses.</p>		

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R5	The Welsh Government should work with Public Health Wales to accelerate decision making for a national lung screening programme. It should clarify as soon as possible whether it will fund national lung screening for Wales and the timescale for implementing such a programme.	<p>Accept.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has asked Public Health Wales to accelerate its work on scoping lung screening to permit a decision by Welsh Ministers on its introduction and funding. Public Health Wales is due to provide an interim report by end of March and a final report by end of September to permit Welsh Ministers to make a decision on introducing a national lung screening programme.</p>	End quarter 2 2025-26	Sioned Rees Director for Public Health Protection
R6	As part of a wider approach to encourage greater regional working between health boards, the Welsh Government and the NHS Executive should work with the service to understand and help address any key barriers to delivering regional services. This should include working with DHCW to identify digital solutions to support shared waiting lists for	<p>Accept.</p> <p>The Welsh Government will work with NHS organisations to support regional working for services, where appropriate, to address service fragility. This will include working with Digital Health and Care Wales on the development of digital solutions to permit shared waiting lists.</p>	Ongoing	Mike Emery Chief Digital Officer

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	cancer diagnosis and treatment, where it is appropriate to do so.			
R7	The Welsh Government should work with the NHS Executive, HEIW and other NHS bodies to ensure there are employment opportunities for radiologists who have been trained in the National Imaging Academy.	Accept. The Welsh Government will work with health boards in Wales, which are responsible for planning their workforce, to enable employment of Imaging Academy graduates in line with local or regional workforce needs.	Quarter 2 2025-26	Helen Arthur Director of Workforce and Government Business
R8	The Welsh Government should clarify national roles and responsibilities for monitoring and ensuring compliance with its data standards including how it will hold NHS bodies to account for poor compliance.	Accept. Digital Health and Care Wales develop and design data standards, including minimum data sets for NHS Wales. DHCW advises the Welsh Government on what should be included and how they should be collected. Only the Welsh Government can mandate	Quarter 3 2025-26	Mike Emery Chief Digital Officer

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		<p>requirements through national policy, planning guidance or Welsh Health Circulars. To ensure compliance, the Welsh Government expects organisations to audit themselves against the standards and DHCW to deliver a quality assurance and review process. Regulatory bodies such as Audit Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales also have a role in auditing organisations against national standards. DHCW and regulatory bodies should report to the Welsh Government any significant failure to comply with national data requirements, so that these can be addressed with NHS organisations through accountability processes and meetings.</p>		
R9	<p>The Welsh Government should work with the NHS Executive (particularly the Cancer Network), DHCW and Public Health Wales NHS Trust to develop a more comprehensive set of publicly available data on cancer services, which as a minimum should include:</p>	<p>Accept in principle.</p> <p>The Welsh Government will develop a cancer data road map to improve the available data on cancer service delivery for use by the NHS, the Welsh Government, and the public. However, it may not be</p>	Quarter 3 2025-26	<p>Mike Emery</p> <p>Chief Digital Officer</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of people currently waiting for cancer diagnosis or treatment (open pathway data); Performance against the 62-day target for the health board providing diagnosis and treatment and health board of residence, including people living Powys Teaching Health Board area; Performance across the patient pathways including timeliness of diagnostic reporting across different tumour sites; timeliness from the decision to treat a patient to the start of that treatment (including surgery, radiotherapy and Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy); and diagnosis and treatment of recurrent disease. Performance information should be provided at cancer sub-tumour level where possible; Timeliness of diagnosis and treatment for patients referred from the breast and cervical screening programmes; and 	<p>possible to provide all of this data to the public for reasons of data accuracy, reporting burden on NHS services, and patient confidentiality. In addition, the barriers to providing data on treatment in England must first be understood before commitments can be made to publishing this data, but we support the principle of doing so, subject to their further analysis.</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accurate information on equity of access, including ethnicity of cancer patients as well as the experiences of different patient groups (this should include children and young people). 			
R10	The Welsh Government should work with DHCW and NHS England to share regular and consistent data on the timeliness of diagnosis and treatment for Welsh cancer patients treated by NHS England.	<p>Accept.</p> <p>The Welsh Government will work with health boards, NHS England, and Digital Health and Care Wales to ensure relevant data on the diagnosis and treatment of Welsh residents seen in England is appropriately shared.</p>	Quarter 4 2025-26	<p>Mike Emery</p> <p>Chief Digital Officer</p>

Agenda Item 4.2

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JMHSC/LJC/IMG/111224

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

19 March 2025

Dear Mike,

Inter-Ministerial Group for Health and Social Care

I am writing to inform you an Inter-Ministerial Group meeting for Health and Social Care was held on 11 December 2024, chaired by the Scottish Government.

The meeting focused on the UK Government's Health Mission and its 10-year plan, and potential opportunities for four-nation collaboration in innovation. A communique was produced following the meeting and is available:

[Interministerial Group for Health and Social Care communiqué, 11 December 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

I am copying this letter to the chair of the Health and Social Care Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@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.

Agenda Item 4.3



Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru
Rhif 2 Capital Quarter, Stryd Tyndall,
Caerdydd CF10 4BZ

Public Health Wales
Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street,
Cardiff CF10 4BZ

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

19th March, 2025

Dear Russell,

Health and Social Care Committee request for briefing on expenditure within Public Health Wales on Tobacco Control

I trust this finds you well.

Following the evidence recently taken by the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, the committee agreed to ask Public Health Wales to write to you as Committee Chair providing details on the level of PHW funding allocated to tobacco as at paragraphs 62 and 66 of the transcript (<https://record.senedd.wales/Committee/15222#A94041>)

Public Health Wales NHS Trust had a core allocation of £139.690m in 2024/25. Work on Tobacco control is largely centered in its Health Improvement Division within the Health and Wellbeing Directorate. The budget for the Health and Wellbeing Directorate is £22M, 11% of which is allocated directly to Tobacco Control. This is set out in more detail in Table 1 below.

Our work encompasses both direct Tobacco Control Programme activity along with broader programs which work across a range of public health outcomes of which Tobacco will be one.

Direct tobacco control activity takes place within the Tobacco, Vaping and Nicotine Addiction Programme and includes:

- National co-ordination and support for Help Me Quit NHS stop smoking support in Wales including the national telephone hub
- Tobacco control programme team supporting prevention of uptake of smoking; tobacco policy development and evaluation
- Behaviour change programmes including mass communications

Work on tobacco is also undertaken through our Welsh Network of Health and Wellbeing Promoting Schools programme; which provides support for school health and wellbeing activity in each local authority in Wales. This work includes as part of it Tobacco and Vaping. The total allocation to this area is £1.8m but it is not possible to separate out specific Tobacco expenditure on this amount.

The *JUSTB* Smoke Free programme is a specific smoking prevention programme targeted at secondary schools with the greatest risk of smoking in Wales. The Tobacco work is also supported by generic Divisional support services such as finance and business management; procurement etc.

Table 1: Resourcing

Spend for 24-25 (11 mths actual/1 mth planned)	£'000s
<i>Direct Programmes</i>	
Tobacco, Vaping and Nicotine Addiction Strategic Programme	1,056
Help Me Quit	476
JUSTB	401
Behaviour Change - Social marketing	369
Business and administration, management	19
Total Direct	2,321

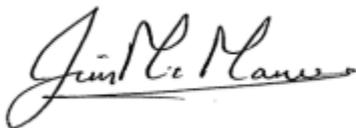
Funding to Public Health Wales is only one component of public health funding in Wales in relation to Tobacco Control. There is additional local expenditure:

- Health Boards all deliver front line smoking cessation services and undertake a range of strategic programmes in this area.
- Local Authority public protection teams are actively engaged in enforcement in relation to smoke free environments and illegal sales.

Should you wish any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,



**Yr Athro/Prof Jim McManus,
National Director of Health and Wellbeing
Public Health Wales**

cc.

Jeremy Miles, MS, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
 Sarah Murphy, MS, Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
DSMMHW@gov.wales
 Sioned Rees
 Ed Wilson

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Russell George MS
Chair,
Health and Social Care Committee

24 March 2025

Dear Russell,

Petition P-06-1400 Fair and Adequate Resourcing of General Practice in Wales

The Petitions Committee met on 10 March and considered the above petition, submitted by Lewis Williams of BMA Cymru.

Members noted that a debate on the petition had taken place on 6 November 2024 and agreed to close the petition, noting that the Health and Social Care Committee is conducting an inquiry into the future of general practice in Wales.

In light of that inquiry, the Committee agreed that I would write to you to highlight the latest correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary and the petitioner – this is attached.

The full details of the Committee's consideration of the petition, including the correspondence and the actions agreed by the Committee can be found here: [P-06-1400 Fair and Adequate Resourcing of General Practice in Wales](#)

I would be grateful if you could send any response by e-mail to the clerking team at petitions@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair

Senedd Cymru
Agenda Item 4.4

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Agenda Item 7

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Agenda Item 8

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