

Agenda – Health and Social Care Committee

Meeting Venue:

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

Meeting date: 4 December 2025

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Sarah Beasley

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

Private pre-meeting

(9.00–9.30)

Public meeting

(9.30–14.15)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(9.30)

2 Improving access to support for unpaid carers: evidence session 1

(9.30–10.45)

(Pages 1 – 14)

Adult Carers

–Ann Soley

–Judith Russell

–Sue Rendell

–Chris Kemp–Philp

Research Brief

Break

(10:45 – 11.00)

3 Improving access to support for unpaid carers: evidence session 2

(11.00–12.15)

Global Majority Carers



- Hazel Lim
- Jusna Begum
- Runa Begum
- Bobbi-Jo Haarhof
- Kalpana Natarajan

Lunch

(12:15 -13:00)

4 Improving access to support for unpaid carers: evidence session 3

(13.00-14.15)

Younger Carers

- Albie Summers
- Elektra Thomas
- Ffion Haf-Scott

5 Paper(s) to note

(14:15)

5.1 Welsh Government's response to the Supplementary legislative Consent: Terminally Ill Adults(End of Life) Bill report

(Pages 15 - 21)

5.2 Letter from Chair of Petitions Committee re P-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd

(Pages 22 - 23)

5.3 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care regarding the UK Rare Diseases Framework

(Pages 24 - 25)

5.4 Letter from the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing regarding the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum in respect of UK Government amendments to the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

(Pages 26 - 27)

5.5 Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs regarding the tenth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee

(Page 28)

5.6 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care regarding the Inter-Ministerial Group meeting for Health and Social Care

(Page 29)

5.7 Letter from the Welsh NHS Confederation's Health and Wellbeing Alliance in relation to the development of the new Dementia Action Plan

(Pages 30 – 31)

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting and our next meeting on Wednesday 10 December

(14.15)

Private Meeting

(14.15–15.00)

7 Improving access to support for unpaid carers: consideration of evidence

(14.15–14.20)

8 Inquiry into the future of general practice in Wales: consideration of key issues

(14.20–15.00)

(Pages 32 – 44)

Paper 1 – Future of General Practice: Key issues

Agenda Item 2

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The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

Response to the HSC Committee report (November 2025)

18/11/2025

In October 2025, the Health and Social Care Committee submitted its report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. The report includes six recommendations. This is the Welsh Government's response to those recommendations.

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Introduction

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, introduced as a Private Member's Bill in the House of Commons, seeks to provide adults who are terminally ill with the choice to request assistance to end their own life, subject to safeguards and protections contained within the Bill.

The Welsh Government welcomes the Health and Social Care Committee's report about the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. The committee's work is vital in ensuring that policy and legislation are subject to thorough examination, particularly in relation to matters as sensitive and significant as voluntary assisted dying.

I note the committee's neutral position about the principle of voluntary assisted dying, and its focus on the provisions in the Bill, which are the subject of the Legislative Consent Memoranda laid before the Senedd.

The Welsh Government remains committed to working constructively with the UK Government and the Bill's Sponsors to ensure the devolution settlement is respected and the interests of Wales are considered as the Bill progresses.

Where the committee's recommendations relate to devolved matters, such as health and social care, the Welsh Government will continue to work closely with the Senedd and all relevant partners to ensure the policy intent is delivered effectively, and in the best interests of the people of Wales.

I thank the members of the Health and Social Care Committee for this report about the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. I have set out my response to the committee's recommendations below.

Response to the six recommendations

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that

In his response to this report, the Cabinet Secretary should set out why he has taken a narrow approach when deciding which provisions of the Bill should be the subject of a legislative consent request, when the matter of 'health' is extensively devolved. A broader interpretation, which accounted for the services in the Bill to be delivered largely in a healthcare setting by health and social care professionals, could have led to the majority of the clauses in the Bill being considered to require consent and thus being subject to scrutiny by this Senedd.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government's assessment of which clauses require Senedd consent is based on Standing Order 29 and a consideration of whether the Bill's provisions have regard to devolved matters. While health is a broadly devolved area, our assessment concluded that only the clauses identified in the Legislative Consent Memoranda have regard to devolved matters and therefore require the consent of the Senedd under Standing Order 29.

The Bill seeks to enable adults who are terminally ill to be lawfully provided with assistance to end their own life. The primary mechanism through which the Bill achieves this is via modification of the current criminal offence in section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961, which is restricted under Schedule 7B to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

I remain committed to working with the Senedd to provide such information as can be shared without compromising legal professional privilege, and to supporting scrutiny of the Bill where appropriate.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that

The Cabinet Secretary should update the committee periodically on progress with work to prepare for the workforce implications of implementing the Bill in Wales. This should include, amongst other matters, consideration of increased responsibilities for staff, additional training needs, sufficiency of the Welsh-speaking workforce (see also recommendation 4), and initial costings.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government will continue to update the committee about work relating to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, in accordance with the usual scrutiny arrangements of the Senedd.

The Bill is currently in the legislative phase, and while initial consideration has been given to potential operational implications, this work remains limited. If the Bill is passed by the UK Parliament and receives Royal Assent, implementation across England and Wales will be over several years. As such, detailed service planning and delivery will be a matter for

the next Welsh Government and will depend on the final duties and functions set out in the enacted legislation.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that

In his response to this report, the Cabinet Secretary should set out his views on whether the Voluntary Assisted Dying Commissioner should be able to undertake investigations into matters other than those which have been referred by a national authority and produce additional reports, including reports on areas of concerns and own-initiative investigations. He should also set out whether, in the Welsh Government's opinion, the Bill as currently drafted enables this.

Response: Accept

The functions and remit of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Commissioner are determined by the Bill Sponsor and set out in the legislation. While the Welsh Government does not have a role in defining those functions, we note that paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the Bill states "the Commissioner may do anything the Commissioner considers appropriate for the purposes of, or in connection with, the Commissioner's functions."

This broad general power could reasonably be interpreted to include instigating investigations and the publication of additional reports in relation to matters other than those referred by a national authority, including thematic or concern-based reports, where such activity is considered appropriate for the purposes of, or in connection with, the Commissioner's functions.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that

In his response to this report, the Cabinet Secretary should set out what consideration has been given by the Welsh Government to the creation of a Voluntary Assisted Dying Commissioner for Wales and, if ruled out, the reasons for this.

Response: Accept

Ultimately, the legislative structure of the Commissioner's role is a matter for the Sponsor, who retains discretion over the Bill's design.

However, I have considered the creation of a Voluntary Assisted Dying Commissioner for Wales. A joint role, covering England and Wales, is similar to arrangements in other areas outside of devolved legislative competence, but where the Welsh Ministers have some responsibility for implementation and practical arrangements, for example, the National Medical Examiner.

Introducing separate Voluntary Assisted Dying Commissioner's for England and Wales could create complexity, particularly as some aspects of the role relate to matters that are not devolved and are intended to operate across England and Wales.

The current provisions in the Bill enable Welsh Ministers to refer matters to the Commissioner, which the Commissioner must therefore investigate and report on. They also require the Commissioner to consult with the Chief Medical Officer for Wales in preparing the annual report and to submit that report to the Welsh Ministers for their response. A copy of the report and response must also be laid before the Senedd.

These provisions offer a proportionate and effective means of ensuring Welsh interests are reflected in the Commissioner's work. However, further consideration will be given to whether there is a case for exploring additional arrangements to support this.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that

In his response to this report, the Cabinet Secretary should set out how the Welsh Government plans to increase the number of Welsh-speaking staff able to deliver voluntary assisted dying services through the medium of Welsh.

Response: Accept.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, as brought from the House of Commons, includes explicit provisions to protect the rights of Welsh speakers when accessing assisted dying services. Ensuring staff have the necessary Welsh language skills will need to be a key consideration in terms of any planning and delivery of services, if the Bill is passed by the UK Parliament and receives Royal Assent.

Any approach to increasing the number of Welsh-speaking staff would also need to be planned and delivered in line with the final duties and functions set out in the enacted legislation. Decisions on implementation, including workforce planning and service design, will therefore be a matter for the next Welsh Government to consider, if the Bill becomes law.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends that

In his response to this report, the Cabinet Secretary should set out how the Welsh Government plans to ensure adequate provision of voluntary assisted dying services to people whose first language is not Welsh or English.

Response: Accept

The Bill includes explicit provisions to support people whose first language is not Welsh or English. These include placing a statutory duty on practitioners and service providers to ensure the provision of adjustments for language and literacy barriers, including to the use of interpreters, at key stages of the process.

The Bill is currently in the legislative phase, and while some initial consideration has been given to potential operational implications, detailed service planning and delivery – including language access – will be a matter for the next Welsh Government to consider

and implement in line with the final duties and functions set out in the enacted legislation, if the Bill is passed by the UK Parliament and becomes law.

Financial Implications – None

Agenda Item 5.2

Y Bwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Peter Fox MS

Chair

Health and Social Care Committee

Senedd Cymru

Senedd Cymru

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Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

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0300 200 6565

18 November 2025

Dear Peter,

Petition P-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd

The Petitions Committee met on 10 November and considered the above petition, submitted by Delyth.

Members are grateful for the petitioner's continued engagement, but it is now going beyond the scope of the Petitions Committee, and it was felt that the Health and Social Care Committee is in a better position to take the petitioner's detailed questions forward. It was therefore agreed to close the petition and forward the information from the petitioner to the Health and Social Care Committee.

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-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd](#)

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



Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 5.3

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
 Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/JMHSC/0600/25

Peter Fox MS
 Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
 Welsh Parliament
 Cardiff
 CF99 1SN

SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

21 November 2025

Dear Peter,

You may be aware that rare disease policy is aligned across the United Kingdom through the [UK Rare Diseases Framework](#) (2021-2026). The Framework is structured around four priorities: (i) helping patients get a final diagnosis faster; (ii) increasing awareness of rare diseases amongst healthcare professionals; (iii) better coordination of care; and (iv) improving access to specialist care, treatment and drugs. This is underpinned by national action plans outlining the steps each nation will take in pursuit of these priorities, such as Wales' [Rare Disease Action Plan](#).

The Framework has brought increased attention to rare diseases, enabled four-nation information sharing about service development, and permitted structured third sector input. There have been clear benefits to this approach given the limited prevalence of individual rare diseases. The Framework is due to expire in January 2026 and officials from across the four nations have been exploring the future of UK-wide rare disease policy collaboration.

Following these official-level discussions, the UK Government's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention wrote to Ministers of the Devolved Governments on 26 August proposing a one-year extension to the Framework. This proposal reflected a four-nation desire to provide sufficient time for engagement with the rare disease community about the future policy direction. It also recognised the forthcoming 2026 parliamentary elections in Wales and Scotland and the ongoing structural reorganisation of NHS England.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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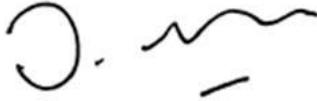
Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

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.

I have responded confirming my support for a one-year extension, as have my counterparts in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Our collective agreement means the Framework and the Wales Action Plan will continue until January 2027. I am writing to you as Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee to notify you of this extension.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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

Agenda Item 5.4

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: SM/TBVB/2111/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

seneddjc@senedd.wales

Peter Fox MS
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee

seneddhealth@senedd.wales

21 November 2025

Dear Mike and Peter,

As you will be aware, on 31 October, I laid a Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (SLCM) in respect of UK Government amendments to the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which were tabled during Lords Committee Stage on 20 October 2025.

I am writing to provide an update about a procedural matter. The Committee Stage of the Bill is taking place in Grand Committee, rather than in a Committee of the Whole House. In Grand Committee, amendments to a Bill can only be made with the unanimous agreement of Members. As there was not unanimous support for the government amendments, they were withdrawn to enable the House to consider them again at Report Stage. The UK Government remains confident these technical amendments will be re-tabled at Report Stage and while I do not anticipate any difficulties in this regard, I am withdrawing the SLCM as the amendment text may be revised and I want to ensure the SLCM is clear and accurate.

I continue to strongly support the policy proposals and policy intent of the Bill and will work closely with the other UK governments to ensure a consistent four-nations approach is taken. The LCM debate for this Bill is scheduled to take place in the Senedd on 9 December.

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Correspondence.Sarah.Murphy@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 remain grateful to the Committees for the continued support and detailed scrutiny of this important legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline for the "y".

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Agenda Item 5.5

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

18 November 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of the tenth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC), which will take place on 20 November 2025.

I will be chairing the meeting, which will take place virtually. The discussion is anticipated to focus on International Affairs, Community Cohesion, and live issues including the upcoming UK Budget, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Sewel Convention and Legislation.

This letter has been copied to the Chairs of the following Committees: Finance; Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs; Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations; Health and Social Care; and Equality and Social Justice.

I will provide an update after the meeting in line with established arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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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.

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

Agenda Item 5.6



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/JMHSC/0608/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd

25 November 2025

Dear Mike,

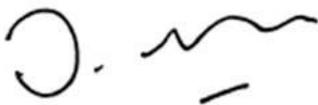
I am writing to inform you an Inter-Ministerial Group meeting for Health and Social Care was held on 25 September 2025, chaired by the UK Government.

The meeting focused on items relating to innovation, elective care and the programme to bring patients from Gaza to the UK for treatment. Other issues raised included neighbourhood health and pandemic preparedness.

A communiqué was produced following the meeting and is available at this link:
[Interministerial Group for Health and Social Care communiqué, 25 September 2025 - 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

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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 5.7

Peter Fox MS

Health and Social Care Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Dear Chair,

Working Together for a Transformational Dementia Plan in Wales

We are writing to you as a newly formed sub-group of the Welsh NHS Confederation's Health and Wellbeing Alliance focussing on the development of the new Dementia Action Plan. We are organisations who are united by a shared commitment of improving the lives of people affected by dementia in Wales.

Co-chaired by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and Alzheimer's Society Cymru, this group brings together a wide range of expertise from across health, social care, and the voluntary sector. We are committed to speaking with a collaborative and unified voice to support the development of a renewed Dementia Action Plan; one that is transformational in its ambition and delivery.

We welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to developing a new plan. However, we know that for people living with dementia and their carers, delays in assessments, diagnosis, and support have real consequences. Every day, individuals across Wales face the emotional, practical, and financial challenges of dementia—often without the joined-up support they need. Families are stretched, carers are exhausted, and services are under pressure

There are around 51,000 people living with dementia in Wales and by 2040, this figure is set to increase to almost 70,000 people, with 1 in 3 people born today projected to develop the condition.

Dementia represents one of the biggest health and social care challenges of our time. This is why we believe the new plan represents a huge opportunity to be bold and to deliver real change for people living with dementia and their loved ones. It must be rooted in lived experience, backed by clinical expertise, and provide clear accountability and workforce planning. The new plan must focus on improving quality of life for people living with dementia now and in the future through active engagement in research and innovation, early diagnosis, and delivery of transformative treatments as they emerge.

Our sub-group brings together deep expertise and understanding of lived experience, and we are ready to work with the Welsh Government to shape and deliver a plan that meets the scale of the challenge across prevention; diagnosis treatment and support; social care; end of life care; and research. We will continue to advocate for the voices of people affected by dementia and ensure that progress is visible, measurable, and impactful.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to ensure the new dementia plan delivers real change for people living with dementia across Wales.

To arrange a meeting please email Eleanor.Roberts@Alzheimers.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Walters

Co-Chair

External Affairs Manager

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Gemma Roberts

Co-Chair

National Influencing Manager

Alzheimer's Society



Agenda Item 8

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