



**Comisiynydd y  
Gymraeg  
Welsh Language  
Commissioner**

Eluned Morgan MS  
Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language  
Welsh Government  
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13/11/20

Dear Eluned

### **Welsh language mental health Services**

Congratulations to you on your new responsibilities in the areas of mental health and well-being. Due to the range of your fields of work I hope that extending your responsibilities will lead to an increase in the provision of mental health support and services available through the medium of Welsh for people of all ages.

Over recent years in particular I have become aware of shortcoming in mental health services for children and young people and older people alike. In 2018 the Children, Young People and Education Committee highlighted the lack of mental health services for children and young people in Welsh in *Mind over Matter* report.<sup>1</sup> In the same year Meri Huws, my predecessor as Welsh Language Commissioner, also published a report on Welsh speakers' dementia care in conjunction with Alzheimer's Society Cymru.<sup>2</sup> The report highlighted a number of areas for improvement so that Welsh speakers could access dementia services in Welsh and included recommendations for the Welsh Government and a number of other bodies. I was saddened however that in its recently published National review of care homes for people living with

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<sup>1</sup> <https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11522/cr-ld11522-e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.comisiynyddygybraeg.cymru/Cymraeg/Rhestr%20Cyhoeddiadau/Adroddiad%20de mentia%20a'r%20Gymraeg.pdf>

**Comisiynydd y Gymraeg**  
Siambrau'r Farchnad  
5-7 Heol Eglwys Fair  
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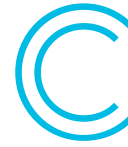
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dementia Care Inspectorate Wales<sup>3</sup> identified similar gaps in services for Welsh speakers. It is not acceptable that vulnerable Welsh speakers are put at a disadvantage when accessing dementia services if they are not available in their language of choice, and in some instances their only language.

Following the publication of the report on Welsh Speakers' Dementia Care a task and finish group was established to oversee the implementation of the report's recommendations. The constraints of the recent pandemic have meant that the group has been unable to meet recently but will meet in early 2021. The Minister for Health and Social Services agreed to provide an update on the report's many recommendations for the task and finish group finish. I enclose correspondence from him detailing those points. I understand of course that the events of recent months may have delayed the Government's work in this area but I look forward to receiving an update on these recommendations. Beyond that, I very much hope that we can work together to ensure that an increase in mental health services is available to Welsh speakers in tandem of course with an increase in Welsh speakers and opportunities to use Welsh.

Yours sincerely,

**Aled Roberts**  
Welsh Language Commissioner

Enc.

Cc: Sue Phelps, Wales Director, Alzheimer's Society Cymru  
Sioned Rees, Welsh Government  
Bethan Webb, Welsh Government  
Chair, Dementia Oversight, Implementation and Impact Group  
Chair, Cross Party Group on Dementia

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<sup>3</sup> [https://careinspectorate.wales/national-review-care-homes-people-living-dementia?\\_ga=2.87947352.1310650015.1605199048-428815351.1586445275](https://careinspectorate.wales/national-review-care-homes-people-living-dementia?_ga=2.87947352.1310650015.1605199048-428815351.1586445275)



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00636/20

Aled Roberts & Sue Phelps  
Welsh Language Commissioner & Alzheimer's Society

Cerian.Davies@cyg-wlc.cymru

17 March 2020

Dear Aled & Sue,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February regarding the Welsh Speakers' Dementia Care Report.

I note your request for further information and updates in relation to the progress with implementing the recommendations for Welsh Government. Specific updates on current work are incorporated below. As we further implement these recommendations we are happy to provide further updates to the task and finish group every six months. My officials will be in touch with Huw Owen and Lowri Williams to establish arrangements.

**Recommendations 3-5:**

Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) are requested to ensure that Welsh Language needs are embedded within all services and projects that are supported through the Integrated Care Fund (ICF). End of year reports for the ICF will be provided to the Dementia Oversight Implementation and Impact Group (DOIIG) capturing 2019/20 activity and we will ensure that there is a focus in reporting how Welsh Language Needs are met in this context. We will also ensure that you have sight of this information when it is prepared.

I am also aware that Catrin Redknap from the Knowledge and Analytical Research Team recently met with Aled to update on progress with current research projects. Linkages have been made across research and ongoing evaluations in relation to the provision of Welsh language services.

**Recommendation 6:**

Since the last update provided, officials continue to work with an expert group on Welsh language tests and assessments. The group comprises researchers and practitioners from the NHS and social care and was established to explore the translation of assessments into the Welsh language, using evidence around the living language to develop a series of standardised tools relevant to cognitive assessment for people across the ranges of age and impairment whose preferred (or only) language is Welsh. This is currently being scoped into a research proposal.

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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.

**Recommendation 7:**

Officials are working with the forums and the national platform to agree a way forward. I have asked that they keep you updated on progress.

**Recommendation 9 - 10**

The Dementia Allied Health Practitioner post holder came into post in January and therefore we are at the early stages of this work. We have ensured that she is sighted on the report recommendations and this will inform her work moving forward. We have made provision within the budget to enable an administrative / support function for this post, which is likely to be an administrative post.

At present we do not intend to create a separate post within the clinical field but as we progress with the implementation of the Dementia Action Plan we will keep this under review.

**Recommendation 13:**

In addition to the update provided for recommendations 3-5, we are also working on the development of care standards, which will be discussed at the next DOIIG meeting. We will ensure that the provision of Welsh Language is fully considered in these discussions and share progress on this work in future update reports.

**Recommendation 14:**

As highlighted we currently have two evaluations ongoing in relation to More Than Just Words and the Dementia Action Plan, therefore we are not proposing an additional piece of work at this time but will review the need for this work once we are aware of the outcomes from the current work strands.

I welcome the opportunity to provide you this update and look forward to continuing to work with you to progress the work in improving dementia services for Welsh speakers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services