

Nicola Stubbins

President, ADSS Cymru

15 December 2020

Dear Nicola

Many thanks to you and Alwyn for giving evidence last week to the Committee's inquiry into the Covid-19 outbreak. During the course of the meeting, you raised a number of issues about which the Committee has asked me to seek further clarification.

Hospital discharge guidance

You told us that there was still some variation in the way that hospital discharge guidance was being interpreted and that you were aware of examples from across Wales where discharges from hospital were being made to care homes without them having received a test result for the patient.

Can you please provide further information on the following points:

- is this happening currently, and how widespread a problem is it;
- are there any particular regions or areas of Wales where this is more of a problem than others;
- what processes are in place to record when this happens;
- what action is taken where this is found to have happened.

Weekly staff testing

You also told us that some care homes have stopped weekly testing of staff because of issues around capacity to book and undertake tests; the time taken for results to come back; and a general lack of confidence in the testing system.

Can you please tell us:

- how widespread a problem this is;
- what happens when a care home opts out of the testing programme.



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Collection and availability of data

Finally, we asked you about whether sufficient and timely data is collated centrally around key social care indicators to inform decision-making during the pandemic, including the identification of needs and the commissioning and resourcing of services. You told us that there were gaps in data collection and availability, and agreed to provide an explanatory note on where the gaps are in the data currently being collected by the Welsh Government and how this could be improved.

We are hoping to have an evidence session with the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services in the new year, and would like to be able to discuss these matters, amongst others, with her. As such, it would be helpful if you were able to provide this information by Friday 8 January.

Yours sincerely



Dr Dai Lloyd MS

Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

