

**Cafodd yr ymateb hwn ei gyflwyno i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)**

**This response was submitted to the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)**

**HSC PSS 77**

**Ymateb gan: | Response from: Cymdeithas Siartredig Ffisiotherapy | Chartered Society of Physiotherapy**



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Date 17/09/21

Dear Colleague

**Re: Health and Social Care, Priorities for the Sixth Senedd**

### **Introduction**

The CSP welcomes this opportunity to respond to the consultation on Health and Social Care: Priorities for the Sixth Senedd. The consultation and our response compliments the principles in 'A Healthier Wales' and, the stated aim of the Welsh Government, to "whole system approach to health and social care , which is focussed on health and wellbeing, and on preventing illness."

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to agree with the overall direction, while offering comment on specific areas which we see the physiotherapy and the profession making a significant contribution. We hope you can take these comments into consideration before publication of your final list of priorities.

### **Comments from the CSP**

We welcome the overall list of priorities currently identified in the consultation, particularly those relating to rehabilitation services and access to MSK services. Our profession and members are placed in the frontline of these services and an in-depth look into accessing should be a priority. We see it as a positive that the committee will look at these issues through both non-covid and covid perspectives.

## **Additional areas for the committee to consider:**

We would encourage the committee to consider these additional areas as a priority in the Sixth Senedd:

### **Equity, diversity, and belonging**

The CSP has started to use the terminology of Equity, diversity, and belonging, to better reflect the outcomes we wish to achieve. While we can see that “access” could refer to equity issues in the list of priorities, we would encourage a more specific inquiry into equity and diversity issues. Specifically, how do health services deliver more equitable outcomes, and meet the needs of a diverse population in Wales.

### **Waiting times**

Figures for the end of June 2021 for Trauma and Orthopaedics (T&O), which includes hip and knee replacements, demonstrate a current waiting list of 92,150 people (33% above 2019 average of 62,118)

Tackling this backlog and reducing waiting times must be a priority for the 6<sup>th</sup> Senedd. It is clear this will take time to achieve and there is no immediate solution. The committee should explore what the NHS and Welsh Government is doing to support those on waiting lists, including mental health support, in light of people waiting longer.

### **Integration of Health and Social Care**

Regional partnership boards (RPBs) and GP clusters are relatively new arrangements in the NHS. RPBs are the future of social care and health integration based on current policy, and their role in transforming services is still developing. The committee should look into the function of the RPBs and performance against their stated aims. We wish to see them constructively appraised and developed into a more effective means of integrating AHPs into primary care, and how they work in partnership with GP clusters to deliver primary care more equitably across Wales.

### **Advanced practice and FCP**

Advanced practice and First Contact Practice are a CSP priority. First Contact Practice is a form of advanced practice where physiotherapists are trained to be the first point of contact for a patient, and have the relevant skills to provide an effective service in Primary Care setting. While FCP can be extended to other AHPs, physiotherapy has led on its implementation and would like to see this area of work grow and move into other settings.

### **Workforce planning, including Support workers and the bursary**

Over the last few years, physiotherapy has seen an increase in both student numbers and education providers. We welcome the workforce growth and believe this planning for a larger workforce needs to continue. The committee could scrutinize the workforce plans of relevant Welsh Government bodies and focus on assessing the future needs of the population.

As an additional part of this topic the committee could look at the development of support worker skills and apprentices, and providing in work training opportunities at all levels, including advanced practice and leadership skills.

An issue that could have a significant impact on recruitment of the AHP workforce in Wales is the bursary system. There is a policy in Wales of providing a bursary for training in Wales on condition of a 2 year tie-in. The process of allocating available jobs to those graduates in receipt of the bursary is called “streamlining”, and has been piloted over the last 2 years. There have been

significant administrative issues and worry about the long term impact of this system on recruiting into Wales. The system has been evaluated by HEIW; however it should be scrutinised by an external body such as the committee.

## **About the CSP and Physiotherapy**

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy is the professional, educational and trade union body for the UK's 58,000 chartered physiotherapists, physiotherapy students and support workers. The CSP represents 2,400 members in Wales.

Physiotherapists use manual therapy, therapeutic exercise and rehabilitative approaches to restore, maintain and improve movement and activity. Physiotherapists and their teams work with a wide range of population groups (including children, those of working age and older people); across sectors; and in hospital, community and workplace settings. Physiotherapists facilitate early intervention, support self management and promote independence, helping to prevent episodes of ill health and disability developing into chronic conditions.

Physiotherapy delivers high quality, innovative services in accessible, responsive and timely ways. It is founded on an increasingly strong evidence base, an evolving scope of practice, clinical leadership and person centred professionalism. As an adaptable, engaged workforce, physiotherapy teams have the skills to address healthcare priorities, meet individual needs and to develop and deliver services in clinically and cost effective ways. With a focus on quality and productivity, physiotherapy puts meeting patient and population needs, optimising clinical outcomes and the patient experience at the centre of all it does.

**For more information, please contact**

**Calum Higgins**

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