

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a  
Gofal Cymdeithasol**

**Health and Social Care  
Committee**

**Senedd Cymru**

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Jayne Bryant MS

Chair

Children, Young People and Education Committee

11 November 2021

Dear Jayne

**Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23**

Thank you for copying me in to your letter of 9 November 2021 to the Minister for Health and Social Services requesting written evidence to inform the Children, Young People and Education Committee's scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2022-23. I am writing to share with you for information the Health and Social Care Committee's request for written evidence, and to confirm that I have asked my clerk to ensure that both the Welsh Government's response to the HSC Committee's letter, and any private briefing prepared for the HSC Committee to inform our oral evidence session with the Ministers, are shared with you and your Members in due course.

As we agreed when we met earlier this month, there are significant and important areas of overlap within our Committees' remits in respect of children and young people's health, wellbeing and social care. I look forward to continuing to work constructively and positively on these matters with you and your Committee during the Sixth Senedd.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Eluned Morgan MS

Minister for Health and Social Services

Julie Morgan MS

Deputy Minister for Social Services

Lynne Neagle MS

Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

08 November 2021

Dear Ministers

### Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23

In line with our usual practice, I am writing in advance of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2022-23 to request written information to inform our scrutiny.

We note the Welsh Government's intention to publish the Draft Budget on Monday 20 December 2021, and will be inviting you to attend an oral evidence session early in the new year. The clerk will liaise with your offices about dates.

To assist in our scrutiny, I would be grateful to receive your response to the issues outlined in the annex to this letter, and any other written information you would like to provide, by 20 December 2021.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

## **Annex: request for information from the Welsh Government to inform scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2022-23**

Commentary on actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations.

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1. A breakdown of the 2022-23 Health and Social Services MEG allocations by Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).
2. Indicative 2022-23 Health and Social Services MEG allocations.
3. Commentary on each of the Actions within the Health and Social Services MEG, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2022-23 and the First Supplementary Budget 2021-22 (June 2021).
4. It would be of assistance if the analysis could highlight what, if any, changes are additional resources specifically for the response to COVID in 2021-22 (consequential and guaranteed funding from the UK Government).

### Other information

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In addition to the four usual themes of value for money, prioritisation, preventative spending and affordability, and an indication of how the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and its five ways of working have influenced the budget allocations for health and social care, the Committee would like to receive information on the following (where not already covered in the commentary on each Action).

### **Local health boards' financial performance**

5. Please provide an update on the overall financial performance of health boards. This should include:
  - a. Those that have continued to fail to meet their financial duties.
  - b. Those that have been in receipt of additional end of year and in-year financial support.
  - c. Details of how the Welsh Government is supporting and working with those health boards to both address short-term challenges, improve their underlying position, and secure sustained improvement.
6. Please indicate the level of health reserves allocated within the Draft Budget, and how you anticipate the reserves being used.

7. Please outline your expectations for how health boards should seek to reduce their fixed costs, and what guidance the Welsh Government is providing to assist with this.

### **The impact of COVID-19 on allocations**

8. Please explain how the pandemic has influenced allocations to budget lines within the Health and Social Services MEG, and provide examples of any changes made to allocations as a result of COVID-19. In answering this question, please address:
  - a. The assumptions underpinning allocations made as a result of the pandemic.
  - b. Allocations that have been made to support additional service capacity or additional staff resource as the response to the pandemic continues, including primary, community and hospital services, social care, public health, and the vaccine programme.
  - c. Allocations for mental health support services for the health and social care workforce.
  - d. Allocations that have been made to ensure the maintenance of an adequate and appropriate supply of PPE.

### **Addressing the waiting times backlog**

9. Please provide details of how the Draft Budget will support the delivery of more routine care, and contribute to addressing the waiting times backlog. This should include how any consequential and guaranteed funding from the UK Government will be used.

### **Health and social care workforce**

10. Please explain how the Draft Budget will contribute to the delivery of a sustainable health and social care workforce, and will reduce and control spend on agency staff.

### **Primary care**

11. Please provide details of the budget allocated for primary care services and investment in the primary care estate, and how this compares to amounts allocated in the last three years. In answering this question, please address the extent to which these allocations will achieve the policy aim of shifting care from hospitals to primary care or community settings.

### **Social care**

12. Please outline the planned allocation for social care, including:

- a. Any additional funding identified for 2022-23, and how such funding will be targeted.
  - b. How the allocations will ensure the ongoing viability and stability of social care services, including residential and domiciliary care.
  - c. What support the Draft Budget will provide for unpaid carers, including evidence of specific spend on respite care.
  - d. Measures in the Draft Budget that will improve the sustainability of the social care workforce, including contributing towards achieving parity of esteem, pay, and terms and conditions with the health care workforce.
  - e. The anticipated impact of the UK health and social care levy, in particular any additional or consequential funding.
13. Please confirm whether the allocation for social care is adequate to meet all local authorities' standard spending assessments for 2022-23, and outline how you will monitor local authorities' spend in year.

### **Mental health and wellbeing**

14. Please explain how your priorities for mental health and wellbeing are reflected in the Draft Budget, and where the allocated/projected spend for these priorities can be found. In particular, the Committee would welcome details of allocations in the Draft Budget relating to:
- a. Mental health services (including the Mental Health Service Improvement Fund, and how the Draft Budget will facilitate earlier intervention and improved access to mental health services).
  - b. Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing
  - c. Dementia.
  - d. Autism.
  - e. Obesity/implementation of 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales'.
15. The Committee would also welcome details of:
- a. The percentage/proportion of the Draft Budget that is allocated to mental health and well-being, and how this compares to previous years.

- b. Any reductions or increases relating to specific areas of the Draft Budget compared to previous years (e.g. grants being reduced or increased, or being introduced or ceasing to exist).

### **Transformation, innovation and integration with social care**

16. Please outline how the Draft Budget will support the development of a 'whole system approach', with greater integration of health and social care, as described in A Healthier Wales. In particular, please explain how the Draft Budget balances the need to meet existing service pressures with the need to transform services and develop new models of care.
17. How will service transformation and integration be supported in the longer term to achieve sustained progress on the transformation agenda, ensure a focus on rolling out and mainstreaming the learning from successful pilots, and avoid reliance on continued additional funding.

### **Cross-government/sector working on prevention**

18. Wales has high levels of chronic disease and significant concerns around unhealthy lifestyles. The pandemic has further highlighted and exacerbated this. Can you demonstrate how the Draft Budget:
  - a. Ensures that focus on prevention and early intervention is not being lost as a result of the pandemic.
  - b. Reflects a 'whole system' joined up approach to improving people's health and well-being, and targeting key areas of concern.

### **Reduction of health inequalities**

19. Please outline how the Draft Budget will contribute to the reduction of health inequalities, including those exacerbated by the pandemic, or those resulting from a disproportionate impact of the pandemic or lockdown measures on the health or wellbeing of particular groups (such as older adults, BAME communities, or people on low incomes or who are otherwise financially insecure). The Committee would also welcome details about how the Draft Budget will ensure that the most disadvantaged are prioritised, and that there is fair access to health and care services in rural areas.

## **ICT**

20. An assessment of the costs of delivering the Welsh Government's vision for digital and data, as described in *A Healthier Wales*, and including increased support for digital and virtual care.

## **Withdrawal from the European Union**

21. Information about any budget allocations within your portfolio as a result of the UK's exit from the EU.

