



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1235
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/14337/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

22 February 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 25 November on behalf of the petition committee regarding the provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury in Wales. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

We are aware of UK Government plans to publish a cross government strategy on neurological conditions and are liaising with the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that any such strategy takes into account that health services are devolved in Wales, as well as consideration of our national clinical framework and developing quality statements. A Programme Board co-chaired by the Minister for Care and Mental Health and Chris Bryant, MP is being established to oversee the strategy development and the first meeting is scheduled for 2 February. A Steering Group is also being established alongside the Programme Board and Welsh Government will be represented on both.

The Neurological Conditions delivery plan sets out the Welsh Government's vision for people living with all neurological conditions in Wales and is overseen by the Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG). The NCIG continues to allocate £900k for neuro-rehabilitation services annually and has made neuro-rehabilitation for people with ABI and other neurological conditions a priority for the last 2 years.

The NCIG are also working with the Value in Health (ViH) team on an ambitious project to develop a data dashboard for ABI. This will enable NCIG, health boards and other stakeholders to really understand the demand for and impact of services for people living with an ABI in Wales.

Our National Clinical Framework (NCF) published in March 2021 describes how clinical services such as neurological conditions should be provided over the next decade and how we can better support system planning and quality improvement. The NCF will be supported by a range of quality statements that consist of high-level policy intentions that set out the standards and outcomes expected of clinical services. The NCIG is currently working on a specific quality statement for neurological conditions.

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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.

We also published a [national rehabilitation framework](#) and underpinning population specific guidance in May 2020 to help services better understand the increasing demand for rehabilitation, reablement and recovery throughout health and social care services. Health boards, local authority and third sector partners are using the Framework to plan rehabilitation services to respond to the needs of their populations.

In addition, as part of the implementation of the South Wales Major Trauma Network, health boards have invested in additional rehabilitation provision for any patients with major trauma injuries including brain injuries. This includes the provision of additional rehabilitation consultant sessions, introduction of major trauma rehabilitation practitioners and implementation of the rehabilitation prescription.

In relation to north Wales, currently, there is no provision for adults or children in north Wales for inpatient neurorehabilitation and all services are spot purchased via the IPFR (Individual Patient Funding Requests) process.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) has been actively trying to address the issue of the lack of inpatient Level 2 Neuro Rehabilitation services in north Wales since 2019/20. During this time a project team, in collaboration with clinicians and service users, have been working to understand and define what the delivery of a level 2 neuro rehabilitation service would involve. This included identifying potential capacity and demand, relevant service standards, resource requirements and how the current service pathway operates.

A report detailing this information and suggesting a number of potential ways to deliver a Level 2 Neuro Rehabilitation service locally was submitted to the Executive team in April 2021. Consideration of the report was delayed due to pressures within the health board, however in Sept 2021 the Executive Team gave approval for BCUHB Neuro Rehab Project Board to further develop the potential options and complete an options appraisal to provide a recommended option. This work is currently in progress and will be concluded by autumn when it will return to their Executive team for potential approval. They are happy to provide an update to the Petitions Committee at this point.

They are keen that any new service is co-produced with service users and carers as well as health professionals so if any of the petitioners would like to be involved please contact Megan.Vickery@wales.nhs.uk for further information.

I expect to see transformation to deliver increased and more consistent provision of rehabilitation, reablement and recovery services, including neuro-rehabilitation to ensure people can maximise their recovery from ill health as close to home as possible and live healthier, happier, longer, independent lives.

I hope this information is helpful in responding to your constituent.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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