



Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00161/22

Rhys ab Owen MS
MS for South Wales Central
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Rhys.AbOwen@Senedd.Wales

1 July 2022

Dear Rhys,

Thank you for your letter of 26 April, written in your capacity as Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Dementia, regarding dementia services in Wales.

We will be shortly providing a fuller update to the Dementia Oversight of Implementation and Impact Group (DOIIG) which includes detail on the issues that you have raised. However, in the meantime I thought it would be helpful to provide an interim response on the specific points that you have raised.

Funding research into developing accurate diagnostic tools

We recognise that this is an area we can develop further, however current work in this space includes offering FDG-PET scanning with the aim of increasing the effective and timely diagnosis of dementia. This work was piloted in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and supported by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Wales Research and Diagnostic PET Imaging Centre. Following the success of the pilot, this has now been scaled up across Wales and the recent [written statement](#) has additional information on this work.

The Dementia Action Plan 2018-2022 recognises that for Welsh speakers living with dementia, receiving care and support in their first or preferred language is a matter of clinical need. It explicitly referenced that work is needed with stakeholders to identify and utilise the most robust clinically validated dementia assessment tool(s) for use in the Welsh language and commission research as necessary. This has resulted in Welsh Government commissioning IAITH: Welsh Centre for Language Planning with Bangor University to conduct research to further identify good quality normative data on Welsh language versions of cognitive assessment scales that are commonly used in Wales, allowing the confident interpretation of assessments carried out in a clinical context.

The research team will collate information on the dementia assessment tools/scales available in Welsh, how they are currently used, and identify the most robust Welsh language clinically

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales

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.

validated tool(s). The team will also be collecting normative data in Welsh for the three most robust dementia assessment tools that are widely used in clinics across Wales. The project will be guided by a steering group, which will be comprised of representatives from key stakeholder organisations and clinical practitioners.

Funding post-diagnostic support

All Regional Partnership Boards are funding post-diagnostic support through their Regional Integration Funding allocations. This work is being expanded due to the additional release of £3m funding from last year which looks at increasing capacity within memory assessment services and also the support available for people throughout their diagnostic journey. Officials are currently collating activity detail from Regional Partnership Boards. Once this is complete we will ensure that the DOIIG report, referenced above, which will include examples of this activity is shared.

Developing data standards and developing links with academia

This work is core to our current work programme. We have set up a specific work stream under the implementation of the Dementia Care Standards which focuses on the data requirements that are required for reporting and assurance to support a number of the other work streams. We have previously stated that this data will play an important role in shaping dementia services as we move forward. The report that we will share with you will provide further detail on how this work is underpinning other activities that we are focusing in the implementation of the actions referenced within the companion document.

Finally, thank you for the invitation to attend a future CPG meeting to talk to the group about Welsh Government dementia care policy, I would be pleased to accept this invitation and will ask for our offices to liaise on dates.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing