



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Welsh Parliament

SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

11 May 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your letter of 25 March regarding a Women and girls Health quality statement and plan.

I share the views of the Committee that women's health needs to be given a higher priority than has previously been the case. A Healthier Wales makes clear its aim of ensuring person-centred care across the country, however, there is a need to bolster this by ensuring that women can access the care they need when they need it and that the health service is responsive in providing that care. I have therefore instructed my officials to produce a women's health Quality Statement setting out how the NHS in Wales needs to offer high quality services to women and to support NHS colleagues in the development of a Women's Health Plan for Wales which will set out the actions the service will take to meet the expectations within the Quality Statement.

The Plan will take the same life-course approach advocated by RCOG in its *Better for Women* report and is intended to reduce health inequalities, improve equity of service and improve health outcomes for women in Wales. The plan will include short, medium and long-term actions and will be introduced this autumn.

I am grateful for the work undertaken by the Women's Health Wales Coalition as they produced proposals for a women's health quality statement. As officials have already confirmed to the group, this document will be used in the development of the Women's Health Plan. I have been very clear that the Plan should have significant input from service users, including the Coalition, to ensure that women's voices are heard loud and clear and their concerns reflected. Therefore, there will be stakeholder engagement throughout the development of the Plan, in addition to the usual consultation.

You will appreciate that the plan is still in the early stages of development and so I am unable to confirm the full content at this point in time. However, my officials are considering all the evidence provided in the session with the Coalition and will ensure that this is reflected in the final version of the plan. I can assure you that officials remain in close contact with members of the Coalition and take their concerns very seriously. I will, of course, be happy to provide a more detailed update once the work is more fully developed.

I hope this response has been useful and provides the Committee with reassurance that I see improvements to women's health services as a major priority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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