



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/EM/0966/22

Russell George MS  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

22 March 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your letter of 17 February about the Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry into hospital discharge and its impact on patient flow through hospitals, and the *Hospital to a Healthier Home (H2HH)* service delivered by Care and Repair Cymru. I should like to thank the committee for their time in considering this important topic.

Since the Welsh Government funded *H2HH* service was introduced across Wales over winter 2018/19, we have observed encouraging evidence of the benefits to patient and staff experience. Although there is variation across Wales, the service does appear to have facilitated safer and quicker discharges for vulnerable older patients who have benefited from rapid home adaptations and solutions.

The *H2HH* service was originally intended to be a winter pilot, with the expectation that Health Boards would continue to fund the service long-term if deemed suitable for their local population needs. However, it was recognised that due to the challenges faced by the pandemic, engagement between Care and Repair and the Local Health Boards had been limited and restrained due to the priority in dealing with the pandemic and tackling system pressures.

Additional Welsh Government funding was made available for a further year to continue delivery of the *H2HH* service for 2021/22. A letter was issued to Health Boards on 3 March 2020 to confirm this funding extension, where it was explained Health Boards would need to make their own planning and funding assumptions for the service from 2021/22 and beyond. Health Boards were directed to determine whether the service offered sufficient value to local populations and decide locally whether to fund on a sustainable basis.

Engagement meetings have taken place with representatives of Health Boards, Care and Repair, and Welsh Government officials throughout 2021/2022 to explore future funding solutions. However, due to a lack of communication from Health Boards, Nick Wood, Deputy Chief Executive NHS Wales, wrote to Health Board Chief Executives and Chief Operating Officers on 9 February asking for an update from their organisations.

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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 have since received confirmation from all of the five Health Boards using the *H2HH* service that they intend to continue the service through local funding. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has decided to incorporate the *H2HH* service into the existing Local Authority independent living service contract with Care and Repair.

I hope this information is helpful.

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