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

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Deputy Minister for Social Services**

Lynne Neagle

Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/EM/2628/22

Russell George MS
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

2 September 2022

Dear Russell,

**Follow up on Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
recommendations: Provision of health and social care in the adult prison estate**

Please see attached our response to your letter of 8 July which asked about the progress being made on implementing the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's recommendations in the above report.

The attached document sets out our responses to your questions.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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.

Annex A

<p>Prison Health and Social Care Oversight Group</p> <p>In its response to many of the HSCS Committee’s recommendations, the Welsh Government said it was setting up a Prison Health and Social Care Oversight Group to oversee work and improve transparency in relation to prison health and social care in Wales. In response to recommendation 2, the Welsh Government gave a commitment to publishing the Group’s agendas and minutes on an ongoing basis, stating that the details would be available on its website by the end of October 2021. To date, we have been unable to find this information on the Welsh Government’s website.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Could you provide a link to the relevant page on the Welsh Government’s website where details of the work of the Prison Health and Social Care Oversight Group can be found, including agendas and minutes of its meetings, and information about its workstreams.2. If this information isn't already available on the website, please provide an update on how the Welsh Government is working through and with the PHSCOG to implement recommendations 6, 7, 9, 17, 18, 19, 22, 25, and 27 of the HSCS Committee report.	<p>Welsh Government responses:</p> <p>Please see below link to the Welsh Government webpage where minutes and actions regarding the Prison Health and Social Care Oversight Group are published - Prison Health and Social Care National Oversight Group GOV.WALES</p>
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<p>HMP Parc</p> <p>The HSCS Committee’s report also raised specific concerns about arrangements at the privately-run prison, HMP Parc. The 25-year contract for HMP Parc is due to expire in December 2022, and recommendations 3 and 16 of the Committee’s report related to HMP Parc, including the consistency of inspection arrangements with those in place for public sector prisons, and the inclusion in the service specification for health and social care services of screening and early diagnosis for dementia and arrangements to ensure that people who are diagnosed with dementia receive the care and support they need. Both recommendations were accepted by the Welsh Government.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Please provide an update on the implementation of recommendations 3 and 16. The update should include information about actions that have been taken, any planned actions, and, where appropriate, details of associated resourcing, planned timescales, and how the impact and outcomes of actions and spend have been (or will be) evaluated and measured. 4. Please also provide an update on the work of the Parc Contract Expiry Board, including whether you have any concerns about whether suitable arrangements will be in place by the time the current contract expires in December 2022. 	<p>There is a Board in place on the governance of the retendering of the contract to manage HMP Parc Prison. The inspection arrangements for the new operator will be in consistent with those in place for public sector prisons in Wales.</p> <p>In relation to recommendation 3, the healthcare at HMP & YOI Parc will be delivered by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board from 15 December 2022. There will be an MoU in place between the Health Board, HMPPS and Welsh Government, and as part of these arrangements the inspection arrangements will be in line with other public sector prisons in Wales.</p> <p>In relation to recommendation 16 – the Welsh Government, the Health Board and HMPPS in Wales have agreed a service specification for healthcare services at HMP & YOI Parc. This includes dementia screening and support for those with dementia.</p>
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<p>Prisons and Probation Ombudsman</p> <p>Recommendations 4 and 5, accepted in principle by the Welsh Government, called for the Welsh Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the first suitable legislative vehicle to bring forward amendments to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 to include the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman in the list of bodies with whom the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales can cooperate in an investigation. • Make representations to the UK Government to extend the role of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman to enable them to question professional and clinical judgement when exercising their function of investigating complaints about health services in privately-run prisons in Wales. <p>You committed to discussing these matters further with HMPPS, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.</p> <p>5. Please provide an update on your discussions in respect of recommendations 4 and 5.</p>	<p>Initial discussions have taken place with the PPO's office to scope out the recommendations made by the Committee. The plan is that a working group will be set up to take this work forward in 2022/3.</p>
<p>Use of ICT systems to support information sharing</p> <p>Recommendation 7, which was accepted in principle, asked for details about how Welsh Government would work with partners to promote better communication between justice, health and social care services on prisoners' release dates and release</p>	<p>Initial discussions have taken place with colleagues in England in the NHS, Public Health England and HMPPS who have also undertaken a similar project, which advised that a full review and change of systems will take approximately two years.</p>

<p>plans, including what roles the PHSCOG and Digital Health and Care Wales might play in this work. In the response, you said that the Welsh Government would work with Digital Health and Care Wales to “explore options for the use of IT systems to support better improved information sharing in this respect”.</p> <p>6. Could you provide an update on the implementation of recommendation 7, including what work has been done to explore options for the use of ICT systems to improve information sharing.</p>	<p>Feedback has been gathered from health partners In Wales on current limitations of the IT infrastructure used in prison healthcare. The Welsh Government is currently assessing this feedback and also the resourcing needed to take this work forward alongside other priorities.</p>
<p>Mental health standards</p> <p>Recommendation 10, which was accepted by the Welsh Government, called for clarity about how progress on the priority in the Partnership agreement in respect of mental health will be monitored, including how the contribution of the new national standards will be assessed and whether the ‘national standard’ approach offers any learning for the approach to the provision of other health or social care within the secure estate in Wales. In your response, you indicated that the intention was to implement the new standards over a period of 12 months, beginning in 2022. You said that, where appropriate, the same indicators would be used to monitor access to services and mental health outcomes in prisons as those being developed for use in the mental health core dataset.</p> <p>7. Please provide an update on recommendation 10, including any implications arising as a result of the delays in the development and implementation of the mental health core dataset.</p>	<p>Welsh Government is currently consulting on the draft Substance Misuse Treatment Framework (SMTF) and draft standards for mental health services for prisons in Wales. The consultation will close on 14 October 2022. We will consider responses to the consultation and then work with health boards and the prisons to start implementing the new standards. As part of the implementation, health boards will be requested to provide regular updates on implementation to the Prison Health and Social Care Partnership Boards, ahead of the wider implementation of the core dataset.</p> <p>The draft core mental health dataset has been circulated to health boards to impact test and to understand which elements are already recorded by health boards and which elements would need to be added. This has helped identify any elements which would be difficult to record. The report on this impact testing has now been received by the NHS Collaborative and we are currently taking this through the relevant governance boards.</p>

	<p>Training for health boards to strengthen the recording and use of individual patient outcomes data continues, although this has also been delayed. This work will support health boards to adapt services to improve patient outcomes.</p> <p>Alongside this, the University of South Wales has been commissioned to work with health boards and other stakeholders to develop outcome measures for mental health services. Welsh Government will receive this report shortly.</p>
<p>Secure in-patient provision</p> <p>Recommendation 11, accepted by the Welsh Government, asked for information about the secure inpatient strategy developed under the revised Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan, including any additional secure bed capacity that would be delivered as a result and how the impact on waiting times would be monitored.</p> <p>In your response to the recommendation, you indicated that an audit of current secure in-patient provision would be completed by October 2021, including recommendations regarding mental inpatient secure services for adults, children and young people. You also committed to developing a secure in-patient strategy for Wales.</p> <p>8. What plans do you have to publish the audit of current secure in-patient provision? If the audit is not going to be published, will you share a copy in confidence with us?</p>	<p>The National Review of Patients Cared for in Secure Mental Health Hospital Making Days Count was published by the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit in April 2022. Welsh Government is currently working with partners to consider and take forward the recommendations from the review.</p> <p>The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee recently consulted on its Five Year Strategy for Mental Health Specialised Services. The strategy was informed by <i>Making Days Count</i> and includes secure mental health services.</p>

<p>9. Please provide an update on the secure in-patient strategy for Wales, including when it will be published.</p>	
<p>Substance misuse</p> <p>Recommendations 12 and 13 related to substance misuse. Recommendation 12 asked for clarity on the anticipated timescales for the development of the standardised clinical pathway for the management of substance misuse in prisons and the approach to engagement with stakeholders. This recommendation was accepted. In your response, you explained that the aim was for a final draft of the “Treatment of Offenders” Substance Misuse Treatment Framework to be submitted for Ministerial approval by December 2021.</p> <p>Recommendation 13 asked for an update on the Substance Misuse/Mental Health Deep Dive group’s priorities and work plan. This recommendation was accepted in principle. In your response you explained that the Substance Misuse/Mental Health Deep Dive group was updating its work plan, and committed to providing an update, including proposed monitoring arrangements, by March 2022.</p> <p>10. Could you provide an update on the “Treatment of Offenders” Substance Misuse Treatment Framework, including whether it has been approved by Ministers and when it will be published.</p> <p>11. Could you provide an update on the work of the Substance Misuse/Mental Health Deep Dive group, including its priorities and work plan, and how its progress in removing barriers faced by prisoners and ex-</p>	<p>Welsh Government is currently consulting on the draft Substance Misuse Treatment Framework (SMTF) and draft standards for mental health services for prisons in Wales. The consultation will close on 14 October 2022.</p> <p>Following this joint consultation on the two documents, Welsh Government will work with the prisons and health boards in Wales to form next steps and timeframes – based on consultation feedback. We still anticipate that following the consultation the health boards and the prisons in Wales will need to undertake a gap analysis to identify key actions to support delivery. Further support for delivery will also be available for the prisons through other developments, such as the Traumatic Stress Wales initiative and its focus on supporting those in prison who have experienced trauma to access the support and treatment they need.</p> <p>The Substance Misuse/Mental Health Co-occurring Deep Dive Work Plan was updated in January 2022 to provide a clear set of actions on how operational barriers between services may be removed.</p> <p>Over the past 9 months the Deep Dive group has continued to meet quarterly with the aim to improve outcomes for individuals with complex needs. Since September 2021, its membership</p>

<p>offenders with co-occurring substance misuse and mental health issues who are seeking to access support in prison or post-release will be monitored.</p>	<p>has grown to include increased representation from health board mental health colleagues and relevant third sector organisations.</p> <p>The work plan has recently been updated to reflect progress made against a number of areas, ranging from working with practitioners to increase awareness of legal powers to safeguard dependent drinkers, to better understanding the impact of complex needs funding in Area Planning Boards. The meetings have also provided colleagues with the opportunity to strengthen relationships with organisations in receipt of Welsh Government funding, such as the Adverse Childhood Experiences Hub in Public Health Wales and Traumatic Stress Wales, who work with the group on co-occurring issues.</p>
<p>Funding for health care provision</p> <p>Recommendation 22 called on the Welsh Government to work with relevant partners through the PHSCOG to collate, review and publish information about the costs of health care provision across prisons in Wales. The recommendation was accepted. In the response, you explained that information had originally been requested from health boards in early 2020, but that this work had been delayed as a result of the pandemic. You added that you would request an update from the relevant health boards by the end of November 2021.</p> <p>12. Please provide an update on when you expect to be in a position to publish information about the costs of health care provision across prisons in Wales, and how this information will be used to facilitate benchmarking and the sharing of best practice.</p>	<p>Officials will consider how best it will be taken forward and write again to LHBs as we did not want to add to the pressures on them during the 2021/22 Omicron Wave.</p>

<p>National performance indicators</p> <p>Recommendation 24 called for clarity on the timescales within which work would restart on the development of a set of national performance indicators, when the indicators would be in place, and how and when performance against the indicators would be reported and published. The recommendation was accepted, and in your response, you indicated that a draft set of indicators would be developed over the next twelve months, with performance to be reported and published every 12 months thereafter.</p> <p>13. Could you tell us whether the draft indicators have now been developed, when the indicators will be published, and when the first annual report is expected to be published.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government remains committed to this recommendation but acknowledges that the work to develop the indicators has been delayed due to Covid and resourcing limits. However, Officials will consider how best to commence taking this work forward in 2022-23.</p>
<p>Other recommendations</p> <p>In responding to the HSCS Committee report, the Welsh Government agreed to write to the current Committee with updates on recommendations 11, 14, 20 and 23, 24.</p> <p>14. We would be grateful if you could provide updates on those recommendations, including information about actions that have been taken, any planned actions, and, where appropriate, details of associated resourcing, planned timescales, and how the impact and outcomes of actions and spend have been (or will be) evaluated and measured.</p>	<p>Recommendation 8 will be dependent on work to improve IT infrastructure and will therefore be taken forward as part of this.</p> <p>On recommendation 14 the Welsh Government commissioned review of pharmacy services in prisons in Wales by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has now concluded. The recommendations from the review are being considered by officials, including the benefits of establishing an expert advisory group for medicines and the role of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group. Officials will write to the Sixth Senedd committee with responsibility for prison health care following the review of the report findings.</p>

<p>15. Please also provide an update on progress in implementing any recommendations in the report not covered elsewhere in this request (recommendations 8, 15, 21 and 26).</p>	<p>In relation to recommendation 15, the All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards has been published. This work has been led by Improvement Cymru as part of the Dementia Care Programme and directed by the requirements of the Dementia Action Plan for Wales, and overseen by the Welsh Government Dementia Oversight Implementation and Impact Group (DOIIG). Each of the new standards applies to those people being assessed, diagnosed and living with dementia. One of the standards relates to Dementia Care Mapping: Organisations and care settings providing intensive dementia care will provide the framework and structure for Dementia Care Mapping (DCM) to become routine practice, supporting clinical reasoning and decision making. Mental health DCM services will offer DCM support to acute care, prisons and care homes settings.</p> <p>In relation to Recommendation 20 we continue to take action to build sustainable access to social care in Wales, irrespective of the setting. This includes the WeCare.Wales national recruitment campaign and the promotion of social care as a valued career across multiple media platforms.</p> <p>Alongside this, Welsh Government has prioritised delivery of the Real Living Wage for social care workers, a key commitment of our Programme for Government. Creating a stronger and better-paid workforce is key to delivering better services, and that the Real Living Wage provides an important starting point for improved terms and conditions for social care workers. We remain committed to working through the Social Care Fair Work Forum to identify and deliver workable solutions in the medium and longer terms.</p>
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	<p>Recommendation 21 will need further consideration and has not been progressed due to other priorities. A needs assessment of health care needs in prisons to look at the health care needs on this issue will be considered. Once undertaken, consideration will be given on how best to present this back to the UK Govt (MoJ).</p> <p>Action on recommendation 23 is aligned to parallel actions under recommendation 6.</p> <p>On recommendation 26 this has been delayed due to Covid and resourcing limits but officials are now in contact with Public Health Wales on it.</p>
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