



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1106  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00664/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

6 July 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter, dated 7 June 2022, regarding Petition P-05-1106 – ‘Introduce Personal Health Budgets and Personalised Care in Wales’.

We note the concern regarding the lack of independence and control some individuals have over their care provision. To this end we have set out a specific commitment to ‘Improve the interface between Continuing Health Care (CHC) and direct payments’ within our Programme for Government (PfG). To deliver on this commitment we have already put in motion a number of actions with the aim to introduce further flexibility for people using CHCs which I would like to share with you and the Committee.

The Welsh Government published ‘*Continuing NHS Healthcare – the National Framework for Implementation in Wales*’ in 2014 that sets out the policy for eligibility for CHC and the responsibilities of NHS organisations and local authorities under the Framework and related matters. Since the initial publication we have consulted closely with stakeholders to review and revise the framework.

The revised version of the Framework was published in 2021 and it has been operational as of 1 April 2022.

The revised framework includes a range of options and measures to ensure voice and control for individuals, including:

- health boards employing personnel (either directly or via an agency) who were previously employed by the individual via direct payments
- health boards commissioning an Independent User Trust (IUTs), potentially set up by a family member of the person receiving care, to manage that person’s care.

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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.

The framework also states that further guidance on these measures will be published on the Welsh Government website.

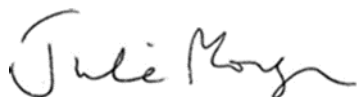
To support the broader delivery of our PfG commitments, we have formed a CHC/direct payments Working Group to ensure empowerment and inclusion of disabled people in development of policy in this area. The group includes representatives from the Welsh Government (Health, Social Care, Equality), health boards, local authorities, third sector groups, disability organisations, disabled people and people with lived experience, the Disability Equality Forum and the Disability Rights Taskforce. This group is now co-producing the guidance to support voice and control.

The group has agreed that the additional guidance should include a range of measures, such as general guidance on voice and control and person-centred care, IUTs, health boards employing staff previously employed via direct payments, notional budgets as well as proposing some new solutions being trialled by some health boards in the form of a personal care budget.

We would like to thank the Committee for raising these issues and providing the suggested actions with regards to strengthening the promotion, guidance and support around IUTs. We will include these considerations as part of our ongoing work to develop the guidance. and will take this forward through a co-productive approach utilising the expertise of our Working Group.

This work will continue over the coming months, and we would welcome the opportunity to return to the Committee with an update on the progress in due course.

Yours sincerely,



**Julie Morgan AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Services