



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1106  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00035/23

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

18 April 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter, dated 18 January 2023, regarding **Petition P-05-1106 – ‘Introduce Personal Health Budgets and Personalised Care in Wales’**, in which you request a further update regarding the progress being made.

In my previous correspondence, dated 6 July 2022, I referred to the specific commitment to ‘Improve the interface between Continuing Health Care (CHC) and direct payments’ which has been included within our Programme for Government (PfG).

In line with this commitment, the revised ‘*Continuing NHS Healthcare – the National Framework for Implementation in Wales*’ was published in 2021 (operational as of April 2022) setting out the policy for eligibility for CHC and the responsibilities of NHS organisations and local authorities.

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

- health boards contracting with an Independent User Trust (IUT), potentially set up by a family member of the person receiving care, to manage that person’s care and provide specified health and social care services for the individual
- health boards employing personnel (either directly or via an agency) who were previously employed by the individual via direct payments

The options noted here are potential interim measures permissible under the current legislative structure. These mechanisms would go some way to support voice and control, however many individuals would regard these arrangements as inferior to direct payments or Personal Health Budgets (PHBs).

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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 seen a growing call to introduce a form of direct payments in the form of PHBs for individuals in Wales who are eligible for CHC, similar to the current system in England which has been operational since 2014. Many believe that this would allow disabled people to maintain voice and control over their care and retain their independence when eligible for CHC.

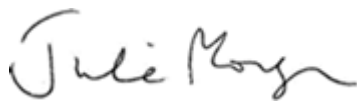
A public consultation was held between 17 August and 7 November 2022, on some proposed changes to primary legislation, including the proposal to introduce access to direct payments for Continuing NHS Healthcare. There was a strong response on this issue. The responses to this consultation exercise are currently being analysed by officials and once this is completed, we will publish a summary of responses.

A CHC/direct payments Working Group has been established which involves key stakeholders including disabled people, Disabled People's Organisations, health boards, local authorities, and Welsh Government officials. The group has been addressing issues regarding both the interim and longer-term deliverables in the CHC National Framework to support enhanced voice and control.

In addition, a drafting group has been established to co-produce Guidance with a range of stakeholders on the interim mechanisms such as Independent User Trusts (IUTs). This work is proceeding at pace and will continue over the coming months.

When this work has been developed further, we would welcome the opportunity to return to the Committee to update members on the progress made.

Yours sincerely,



**Julie Morgan AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Services