

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1269
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01704/23

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

01 August 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee, enclosing further questions by the petitioner on Petition P-06-1269 - Don't let the plan run out for dying people in Wales.

I have responded to the questions raised below.

Seek assurances that the National Palliative and End of Life Care Programme will receive the appropriate resources to be able to undertake the ambitious programme of work as set out under the Palliative Care and End of Life Quality Statement.

The Welsh Government continues to invest £2m per annum to support the National Programme Board for Palliative and End of Life Care and has committed to this level of investment for the remainder of the current Senedd term.

This has enabled the palliative and end of life care programme workforce infrastructure to be strengthened and additional core staff, including project managers have been recruited. In addition, professional sessions have been secured from Nursing and Allied Health Profession leads to work with the programme and the sessions of the existing clinical leads have been increased. The Programme Board is also able to use its resources to invest in and commission expertise and leadership to support the work programme with both short and longer-term commitments. It also has the ability to flex the workforce to meet timelines or respond to developing work as needed.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

Seek clarification on the development of ‘enabling plans’ to take forward the Palliative and End of Life Quality Statement as set out in the Minister’s correspondence to the Committee in August 2022.

The Programme team have developed an overall action plan to deliver the quality statement and have identified workstreams and cross-cutting themes. They are working with newly embedded expert advisory groups and clinical groups to agree ways to deliver the quality statement ambitions. Plans are emerging from these groups on early priorities and longer-term actions.

Receive an update on timescales for delivery of the Palliative and End of Life Quality Statement.

The early focus of the delivery of the quality statement is on accelerating effort to fill urgent gaps in workforce and infrastructure in order to improve out of hours end of life care provision. This includes the wider provision of care from district nurse teams, improving access to advice; for example, through 111, and improvements to access of medications.

The Programme Board is focusing on maximising engagement, for example, with the development of the ‘Offer for Wales’ about how end of life care services will need to look in the future to meet the changing needs of the population. An ambitious structure has been set out with 4 advisory groups to support the work, with relevant expertise and lived experience to gather views, opinions and evidence.

The Board is also engaging with key stakeholders, such as the Value in Health Centre, to lead and deliver on key areas of work, to help set the direction of travel and embed systems which will continue to respond to changing needs in palliative and end of life care.

In addition, the Programme Board is also focused on what resources will be needed to improve palliative and end of life care and to ensure the delivery of the quality statement over the coming years and how the newly developed patient outcome set will help measure areas for investment and improvement as we move to a value-based system.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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