

Cross Party Group on Dementia Annual General Meeting

12.30 – 1.30pm, 28th November 2023

Attendees

Clara Gibbs	Alzheimer's Society Cymru
Luke Pickering-Jones	Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board
Jake Smith	Carers Wales
Catherine Charwood	IDEAL programme, REACH: The Centre for Research in Ageing and Cognitive Health
Christina Oakes	Improvement Cymru
Michaela Morris	Improvement Cymru
Andrew Woodhead	Lleisiau Dementia
Nigel Hullah	Lleisiau Dementia
Ceri Higgins	Lleisiau Dementia
Heather Wenban	NHS Wales
Rhys Hughes	Office of Rhun ap Iorwerth, Leader of Plaid Cymru
Valerie Billingham	Office of the Older People's Commissioner
Polly Winn	RNID
Luke Fletcher MS	Plaid Cymru
Padraig McNamara	Welsh Government
Sally Hewitt	Welsh Government
Jayne Bryant MS	Welsh Labour
Hywel Lorwerth	Welsh Language Commissioner
Monica A Bason-Flaquer	West Wales Care Partnership

Minutes

Luke Fletcher was elected as chair of the Cross Party Group on Dementia (CPG).

Alzheimer's Society was re-elected as the secretariat of the CPG.

Lynne Neagle MS, Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing - update on the Dementia Action Plan for Wales (DAP)

The DAP was published in 2018 and the Dementia Action Plan: Strengthening Provision in Response to Covid 19 companion document was published in April 2022. Implementation of the DAP is overseen by the Dementia Oversight of Implementation and Action Group (DOIIG).

11 of the 44 actions in the companion document have been delivered. Some of the remaining are long-term commitments. Welsh Government (WG) has committed £12million on a recurring basis to the DAP, including £3million for support during assessment and diagnosis. Recipients of funding are required to adhere to the Dementia Care Standards, person-centred standards developed by Improvement Cymru (IC).

WG is working on improving diagnostic data. There are 28 memory assessment teams in Wales who are working with IC to improve assessment and diagnosis. WG published guidance for health boards on recording dementia diagnoses on Feb 2022. ([recording-of-dementia-read-codes-whc-2022-](#)

[007.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#) Work is ongoing between IC and Digital Health and Care Wales to analyze the primary care dementia register data.

Initially diagnosis data will be made available quarterly at a regional and national level and will move towards monthly reporting.

There is a toolkit available on the social care Wales website which assists organisations to translate the “good work framework” into good practice.

[Dementia care and support learning and... | Social Care Wales](#)

In October last year the National Allied Health Professional Dementia Framework was published, and that sets out 4 key priority areas which are awareness and access to Allied health professionals, improvement in innovation, co production and collaboration and leadership and learning.

[Allied Health Professionals Dementia Framework for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

The Interim Evaluation of the DAP has been received. ([Evaluation of the Dementia Action Plan 2018-2022: Interim report summary \(gov.wales\)](#)) The Minister felt that respondents were positive about the impact of the plan, which they thought put people with dementia at its heart and facilitated cross-sector working. There was a consensus that the plan had made dementia a priority for health boards and local authorities. The report also noted inconsistencies in services across Wales and that many of the changes require a longer time frame in order to embed.

In response to questions from two speakers, the Minister agreed that more work was required to build Welsh-language capacity in the NHS workforce so that dementia assessments could be carried out in Welsh

One attendee, representing Lleisiau Dementia, felt that people with lived experience weren't adequately included in the implementation and evaluation of the Dementia Action Plan and that it didn't represent the best practice of co-production.

Another attendee, a Dementia Champion, emphasised the role that improving health generally can have in dementia.

Hopes for a new Dementia Action Plan

Nigel Hullah, Lleisiau Dementia, introduced the session, emphasising that each person experiences dementia differently, and therefore a one-size-fits-all approach to services doesn't work. He went on to say that in his view the stakeholder focus of the evaluation in the DAP was too narrow. Lleisiau Dementia recommends a broader stakeholder group is formed for the evaluation to ensure that it is effective and inclusive. Nigel thought communication from the Welsh government on next steps for the dementia action plan could be improved. The DOIIG minutes should be published and there should be a tab on the Welsh government website to access everything.

Another attendee highlighted the gap between medical and social services and the problems when there isn't coordination between the two.