

Y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai

Local Government and Housing Committee

Russell George MS
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee

22 January 2025

Dear Russell,

Launch of Inquiry: The role of local authorities in supporting hospital discharges

At our meeting on 5 December 2024, the Local Government and Housing Committee agreed the terms of reference for our inquiry into the role of local authorities in supporting hospital discharges.

The terms of reference will consider:

- the effectiveness of local authorities (primarily social services) in supporting safe, timely and efficient discharges from hospital;
- the scale of the current situation with delayed transfers of care from hospital (as attributable to the role of local authorities), including the typical length of delays;
- the main barriers for local authorities in effectively facilitating the discharge of patients with care and support needs, including:
 - social care capacity and workforce shortages;
 - waits for care assessments (and other assessment related issues),
 - challenges in arranging care home placements or home care packages, and
 - disagreements or legislative barriers affecting discharge decisions;

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- the variations in hospital discharge practices throughout Wales and the impact on local authority delivery. How to improve consistency, including the identification of best practice and innovative approaches that could be adopted more widely;
- an assessment of current discharge processes and procedures at a local government and national level, including partnership working between the NHS and local authorities, strategies for increasing community capacity, and the effectiveness of Welsh Government support.

We know that the Health and Social Care Committee undertook an inquiry into hospital discharge and its impact on patient flow through hospitals in 2022. We want to build on this work and focus on the role of local authorities in supporting hospital discharges.

We recently published a call for written evidence and will be holding oral evidence sessions later this term. We are also planning to host a stakeholder event in March. Members of the Health and Social Care Committee are welcome to attend.

I have asked my clerk to ensure that your clerk is kept informed about how the inquiry develops and will be in touch with further information.

Yours sincerely,



John Griffiths MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.