

John Griffiths MS
Chair
Local Government and Housing Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

3 July 2025

Dear John,

We write to you further to the Local Government and Housing Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th May which was an evidence session with Welsh Government as part of the Committee's inquiry into the role of local authorities in supporting hospital discharges. As you will be aware, Faye Patton, Policy & Insights Manager at Care & Repair Cymru gave evidence to the committee as part of the same inquiry on 3 April 2025.

We were pleased to see that Care & Repair was mentioned by Shelley Davies, Deputy Director Futures & Integration in the evidence session on 7th May, particularly as it was in the context of areas of good practice for hospital discharge.

We would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few of the points mentioned by Shelley Davies and provide some further information about how our services which support hospital discharge are funded. Our Hospital to a Healthier Home service works to enable older people to return safely to their homes. We operate the service in 17 hospitals across Wales and work with hospital staff to identify older patients who have housing issues that may delay their return home. We then work with patients and their families to carry out home improvements needed to enable safe discharge, helping to speed up safe discharge and fill gaps in service provision that would otherwise lead to delays in discharge. In the financial year 2023-24, the service completed over 7,500 home adaptations and home improvements to a value of over £1.76 million and saved the Welsh NHS over 24,000 bed days, directly supporting over 4,100 patients to leave hospital more quickly and safely. The service reduces a patient's length of stay in hospital by 6 days on average and reduces readmission rates by half. Our experience delivering Hospital to a Healthier Home shows that the third sector is used to 'pick up' and 'problem solve' issues that neither the hospital nor the Local Authority can, for example same day adaptations essential for hospital discharge such as key safes to allow a package of care to go ahead, furniture moving, and/or plug socket installation for medical equipment. The third sector is therefore vital to improving patient flow and keeping people at home.

It was stated that Care & Repair services are funded by Regional Partnership Boards and Local Authorities. Our Hospital to a Healthier Home service is currently funded locally by 4 Local

Health Boards and 1 Regional Partnership Board. In addition, we are able to complete adaptations such as mobility aids (like handrails, grab rails, ramps, stair rails) and small bathroom adaptations (such as handrails around showers to enable personal care as part of a package of care) because our specialist Hospital to a Healthier Home caseworkers are able to leverage capital for works via our national Rapid Response Adaptation Programme (RRAP) which is funded by Welsh Government, and in some cases additional Local Authority monies.

If you would like any further information from us about our services and how we work with Local Authorities to support Hospital Discharges, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Jones
Chief Executive, Care & Repair Cymru