

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Plant a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Minister for Children and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/DB/2691/25

Peter Fox MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Welsh Parliament

4 November 2025

Dear Peter,

Further to my letter of 2 May in which I provided responses to recommendations 9, 17 and 20 of the Health and Social Care Committee's stage one scrutiny report on the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill, I am writing to provide an update on progress made to prepare Local Health Boards (LHBs) for new Continuing Healthcare (CHC) direct payment responsibilities, in line with agreed timescales for recommendation 20.

Recommendation 20

Preparations for the introduction of direct payments for CHC are progressing and Local Health Boards (LHBs) are working at pace to ensure that the necessary staff, systems, and processes are in place to support the implementation. My officials are supporting this implementation planning in parallel with the development of subordinate legislation, which is expected to come into force in April 2026.

Bimonthly links with CHC lead officers from all LHBs are supplemented by regular engagement with my officials to discuss key issues relevant to LHBs' new responsibilities. These engagement sessions provide opportunities to hear from guest speakers with direct payment experience from both within and outside Wales, enriching the implementation planning process. Information sessions from Local Authority (LA) direct payments leads have been particularly well received. LHBs have also been kept apprised of matters relating to the subordinate legislation including the consultation on the content of the draft regulations and the development of supporting guidance.

My officials maintain close contact with the lead LHB Chief Executive for CHC and the National Director for CHC, alongside wider discussions at both NHS and LA leadership level including ADSS Cymru. I was also pleased recently to approve £150,000 funding in this financial year to be utilised by LHBs for agreed preparatory work including a dedicated post to further coordinate implementation within the LHBs. This funding forms part of Welsh Government's three-year transitional funding package, as outlined in the Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment (EMRIA) that supports the Health and Social Care (Wales) Act 2025.

Yours sincerely,

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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden'.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

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