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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-456
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01294/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

Naomi.Stocks@wales.gov.uk

27 June 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 12 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee, asking me to consider reviewing the Decision Support Tool (DST) used in considering eligibility for Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC), so that it might best reflect the possible severity needs created by dementia.

As my predecessor pointed out in her letter to the Committee of 13 March, the DST is used to collect information from various assessments to inform the final decision on a person's eligibility for CHC. It is evident there are areas we can look at to improve the operation and functionality of the DST. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) have now published their findings into the effectiveness and implementation of the National Framework for CHC. Their report highlighted the differing approaches between England and Wales in the use of the DST, which could make it difficult for those in Wales with dementia to be classed as eligible.

There is a clear need to review the differences in the DST domains between Wales and England. I will, therefore, take forward this work as part of my review into the Framework to ensure the guidance it gives to Health Boards is fit for purpose. My review will also take on board the other findings contained within the WAO's report.

Preliminary work to take this forward is underway. My officials are currently working with Health Board leads and representatives from various groups to identify actions that can be taken forward in any new arrangements. Engagement with stakeholders will take place during the summer and autumn and a revised Framework, supported by an Implementation Plan to monitor the effectiveness of CHC, is due to be published next spring.

Best wishes

Mark

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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