

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Lesley Griffiths AM,
Minister for Health and Social
Services
Welsh Government
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-221

14 July 2011

Deaf Lesley

P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Services

The Committee have been considering a petition which calls for improvements to chiropody services available on the NHS.

We are aware that the previous Minister launched a consultation on a scoping report into social footcare and that commitments were made that the petitioners would be involved in this consultation exercise. At our recent meeting on 12 July, we considered the enclosed correspondence from the petitioner raising concerns about the consultation process. We would like to highlight these concerns with you.

Additionally, the Committee would welcome details on the findings from the consultation process and ask how the consultation findings will lead to improvements in the provision of NHS chiropody services.

Thank you for your continued consideration of this petition.

Yours sincerely

Bill

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

Enc: Correspondence from the petitioner

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Caerdydd
CF99 1NA
Cardiff Bay
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Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8998
E-bost / Email: petition@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Rhodri Wyn Jones

Ref: P-03-221

Thank you for your letter of 3 June, 2011 addressed to my predecessor, Sian Jones.

By way of background, the Cynon Valley 50+ Older People's Forum have been diligent in pursuing this matter from the beginning. We were led to believe that we would be a consultee on the Foot Care Scoping Study, due to be published in the summer of 2010. Since September, 2010 I have sent at least 5 emails and made as many phone calls to officers of WAG to obtain a status on the Footcare Scoping Study. On 8 March, 2011, I wrote to Andrea Nicolas Jones:

Dear Andrea Nicholas-Jones,

I write again on behalf of the 5 50+ Forums in Rhondda Cynon Taff asking about the status of the Footcare Scoping Study, originally due to be published last summer.

On 24 February 24, 2011 I wrote you:

**'Dear Andrea,
When I talked to your colleague a few weeks ago, he kindly told me to expect news of the publication of the study 'soon'.
I have just visited the WAG website, and have found nothing mentioning news of the Footcare Study.
Please advise me as to what I should tell the Cynon Valley 50+Forum (113 members) on 15 March, when they next meet and ask me about the status of this document?
Sincerely,'**

I did not receive a response to the email.

I have reviewed the Minutes of the Petition's Committee dated 1 March 2011 on this matter, and they refer to a 'forthcoming consultation exercise'

I phoned your office today and was informed by your colleague that the Scoping Study should be published 'before the election period'. When I asked about the post publication consultation period, I was informed that it might be 'shortened'.

On behalf of the Forums in RCT, I am concerned that the post-consultation period will not allow enough time for our public, voluntary Forums, most of which meet in alternate months, to respond in a meaningful way.

Please provide the Forums with an expected timetable for publication and post publication consultation.

Because this issue is vital to the Cynon Valley 50+ Forum that meets on 15 March, I would appreciate a response by next Monday.

Yours truly,

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forum Support Officer

I did not receive a response to this email.

Because I was getting nowhere with WAG, I turned to Cwm Taf LHB.

On 14 March, 2011 I wrote the following email to Nicola Davies, Cwm Taf LHB:

Hi,

This is a follow up to Claire's email prompted by my phone call to her this afternoon

I have been doggedly pursuing the Foot Care Scoping Study which was due to be published by Gwenda Thomas's office last summer. Apparently it is still with her office and due to be published 'for consultation before the election.'

As the election is in May, I am trying to get a copy of the Study in sufficient time to allow the Forums an opportunity to participate in the consultation.

On 1 March, 2011, the NAW's Petition's committee met, and according to its minutes:

'P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Actions

The committee agreed to:

- Write to Cwm Taf Local Health Board to ask that that they involve the petitioners in the forthcoming consultation exercise on social footcare;

- Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to request that the Committee be kept informed with on the progress of the consultation’.

Do you know what ‘forthcoming consultation’ the Petitions committee is referring to? How do we assure the Cynon Valley Forum, the original petitioner, are kept in the loop?

Cheers,

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forum Support Officer

I did not receive a written response to this email either.

However, I was assured that if the Cynon Valley Forum provided its response through the Cwm Taf Local Health Board, our comments would be included as consultees.

I am forwarding that to you now in the attachments entitled ‘Responses to Social Footcare in Wales Scoping Study’.

Please confirm that this is the correct approach.

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forums Support Officer

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Tel: 01443 490870
Fax: 01443 490679

From: Tony D'Anna
Sent: 24 May 2011 16:12
To: Denise Jenkins
Cc: 'Rhian Webber (Cwm Taf Local Health Board - Executive Directorate)'
Subject: Response to the Scoping Study

Dear Denise,

Attached are the responses of the Cynon Valley 50+ Forum Foot Care Campaign to the Foot Care Scoping Study.

Members have asked that these responses be forwarded directly to the appropriate departments in Welsh Government.

Can you advise as to the best way to do this?

Yours truly,

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forums Support Officer

Cynon Valley 50+ Older People's Forum

Responses to 'Social Foot Care in Wales' June, 2010

The Social Footcare Campaign of the Cynon Valley 50+ Older People's Forum met on 19 May, 2011, reviewed the report and has the following responses to the 'Social Foot Care in Wales' Scoping Study.

- A. The Social Footcare Campaign was first publicised in October, 2008. The Cynon Valley 50+ Forum filed a supporting petition with the National Assembly in early 2009. The Cynon Valley 50+ Forum was identified as a stakeholder. Why did it take nearly two years to complete this report?
- B. Why did it take over eight months after completion to release the report for consultation on or about 31 March, 2011?
- C. As we understand it, the responses are due by the end of May, 2011. Why aren't volunteer member organisations such as the Forums, which meet monthly, at best, given more time to formulate a response?
- D. Recommendation 12 states: "**Where charges for social foot care are made to individuals, these should range between £10 and £15 per visit**". We disagree because in our experience, some services charge less. For example, Wellbeing Regeneration charged £6.50 for toenail cutting. Some people get home visit footcare for £10.00.
- E. Sentence 4 of Paragraph 85 should be modified to include those with impaired eyesight [partial blindness] among those at risk of injury.