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Ymchwiliad i'r Adolygiad Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal
Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon

Inquiry into the Priorities for the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Ymateb gan: Coleg Brenhinol y Meddygon

Response from: Royal College of Physicians



Inquiry into priorities for the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

RCP Wales response

About us

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) aims to improve patient care and reduce illness, in the UK and across the globe. We are patient centred and clinically led. Our 30,000 members worldwide work in hospitals and the community across 30 different medical specialties, diagnosing and treating millions of patients with a huge range of medical conditions.

Involving patients and carers at every step, the RCP works to ensure that physicians are educated and trained to provide high-quality care. We audit and accredit clinical services, and provide resources for our members to assess their own services. We work with other health organisations to enhance the quality of medical care, and promote research and innovation. We also promote evidence-based policies to government to encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce illness from preventable causes.

Working in partnership with our faculties, specialist societies and other medical royal colleges on issues ranging from clinical education and training to health policy, we present a powerful and unified voice to improve health and healthcare.

For more information, please contact:

Lowri Jackson

RCP senior policy and public affairs adviser for Wales

[Redacted contact information]



Royal College of Physicians (Wales)
Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FH


www.rcplondon.ac.uk/wales

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff CF99 1NA

From the RCP vice president for Wales
O'r is-lywydd yr RCP dros Gymru
Dr Alan Rees MD FRCP

SeneddHealth@assembly.wales

From the RCP registrar
O'r cofrestrydd yr RCP
Dr Andrew Goddard FRCP

02 September 2016

Dear colleague,

Inquiry into priorities for the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the National Assembly for Wales committee inquiry into priorities for the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Our response

RCP Wales will be responding to the current inquiries on the sustainability of the NHS workforce and winter preparedness for 2016-17. Based on the proposed [forward work programme](#) of the new Committee, the RCP would also support further work on:


- Integration of health and social care services
- Waiting times
- Efficiency within the NHS and modern management practices
- Sport and public health

Depending on the terms of reference, we may also want to respond to the following inquiries:

- Ambulance services
- Loneliness and isolation among older people

New models of care are needed

However, while we recognise that primary care has growing capacity and workforce problems, we need to move away from a model of care in which we invest in *either* primary or secondary care, and towards integrated team working, where hospital specialists hold more of their clinics



in the community, and GPs spend part of their time working with colleagues at the front door of the hospital. We need to build on the skillset of our current workforce to deliver new models of care in the future.

Instead of concentrating an inquiry specifically on primary care as the Committee has suggested, we would welcome a mature conversation about the future of service design in Wales, and the vision needed at a national level to develop a new way of working. Whether this is part of the proposed inquiry on integrated health and social care, or a separate inquiry, we feel that it is important that future investment into the health service does not go towards propping up the old, broken system.

The Welsh Government must promote innovative models of integration and introduce shared budgets that establish shared outcomes across the local health and care sector. Spending money on the existing system will not change anything in the long term; health boards must invest in prevention and treatment of chronic conditions and allow clinicians to innovate.

Those living in rural and remote areas must not be forgotten either; it is these areas where the crisis in primary care is hitting hardest, and where a new ambitious model of care has the most potential. All of this will need a drastic change in mind-set. The RCP has long called for more clinical leadership and engagement, and more joined-up thinking between service planning and training needs. Now it is time to re-think how the future NHS workforce will train, develop their skills and practise medicine.

Our priorities for the next five years

The RCP in Wales has identified four major priorities for the next Assembly term:

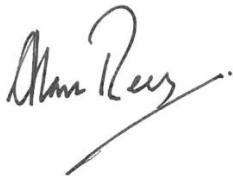
- 1 Implement a new patient-centred approach to NHS change**
Change must be patient centred, clinically led and evidence based, and must not be about cutting costs. Reconfiguration should be based on the [Future Hospital model of care](#), in which care comes to the patient and is coordinated around their needs.
- 2 Invest now in the Welsh NHS to ensure good care in the future**
Our hospitals are under-resourced and under pressure – an increase in funding is needed. Health boards and politicians must support clinicians to develop innovative solutions to the NHS crisis, especially in rural and remote areas. A renewed focus should be placed on developing models of integrated care and improving the experience of frail patients and their families.
- 3 Focus on developing and supporting the medical workforce**
It is time for a national medical workforce and training plan for Wales, including a new strategic approach to recruitment. Junior doctors and medical students must be encouraged to stay in Wales with new training pathways, improved workload and more clinical leadership opportunities.

4 Reduce health inequalities and improve public health

Politicians and government must show national leadership on public health. Legislation should be used where there is evidence to support its use, including standardised packaging for tobacco products, a minimum unit price for alcohol of 50p per unit, and exploring the use of taxes on sugary soft drinks to help combat obesity.

For more information, please contact Lowri Jackson, RCP senior policy and public affairs adviser for Wales, at [REDACTED]

With best wishes,



Dr Alan Rees
RCP vice president for Wales
Is-lywydd yr RCP dros Gymru



Dr Andrew Goddard
RCP registrar
Cofrestrydd yr RCP