

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: Petition P-04-532
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/VG/7843/16

Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

8 December 2016

Dear Dai,

Thank you for your letter of 10 November regarding the petition (Petition P-04-532) about improving Specialised Neuromuscular Services in Wales.

As you note in your letter, the Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) is refreshing the Neurological Conditions Delivery Plan, due to be published in summer 2017. Further work to develop and improve the contents of the refreshed Delivery Plan is underway. This will shape the policy of care and services across the health boards. The Welsh Neuromuscular Network (WNMN) and third sector organisations via the Wales Neurological Alliance are represented on the Neurological Conditions Implementation Group and as such will have an opportunity to inform the content.

This year, the Neurological Implementation Group has invested £120,000 from the £1 million funding it received from Welsh Government to provide additional physiotherapy and family care advisor time. Whilst there have been some recruitment delays, I understand that the WNMN, in conjunction with health boards, are now pressing ahead with the appointments of a neuromuscular specialist physiotherapist in South Wales and additional Band 6 Family Care Advisor time in all three regions. Together with the Stroke Implementation Group, it has also invested £1.2million in the development of neurorehabilitation services across Wales which should benefit people with neuromuscular conditions.

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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.

The WNMN has used the improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales Vision Document to engage with health boards and other partners with regard to key objectives and planning requirements. The WNMN has presented a case to the health boards for further investment to sustain the services and is seeking for this to be included the health boards Integrated Medium Term Plans for 2017-18.

I am aware the WNMN has highlighted in the longer-term there is the need for both additional neuromuscular specialist staff and improved access to generic rehabilitation services and the work they are doing to address these concerns by cross working with exemplar networks in Scotland and South West England. I understand WNMN is also developing a service map for access to specialist and generic services for each health board, including cross-boundary working.

I hope my response demonstrates the Welsh Government recognises the importance of providing safe and sustainable services for people with neuromuscular conditions in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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