



Ein cyf/Our ref MA(P)/RE/0463/17

Assembly Members
National Assembly for Wales

18 April 2017

Dear Assembly Member,

At the stage 2 consideration of the Public Health (Wales) Bill by the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee I committed to provide Assembly Members with further detail of the nutritional standards already in place in hospitals and schools, and plans with regard to nutritional standards.

Directions and guidance are already in place in hospitals for patients, staff and visitors in relation to healthy eating. These include mandatory food and fluid nutrition standards for patients, mandatory healthy food and drink vending standards, and guidance for food and drink served to staff and visitors. Work is continuing with stakeholders to further improve food and drink provision, including:

- Welsh Government officials are reviewing the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee following the publication of their report into hospital catering and patient nutrition in March 2017 and will be taking appropriate action;
- A dedicated NHS Wales Informatics Service resource is being introduced. Standardised "Once for Wales" documentation will support and improve the quality and safety of patient care through improved recording of nutrition assessments and care plans. The development is expected to take three years, and the design will incorporate clinical decision support to improve patient safety and early identification of risk for patients.

In schools, the Welsh Government introduced legislation to improve food and drink provided across the whole school day. The Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013 set out the types of food and drink that may be provided; and define the nutrient content of school lunches.

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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.

Standards are also being developed for care homes for older people and early years settings. Legislation is not required to do this.

For older people's care homes, nutritional standards and guidance will be included as part of the new regulation and inspection arrangements to be introduced from April 2019 as part of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.

For early years settings, more detailed food criteria will be developed to underpin Standard 12 of the National Minimum Standard for Regulated Child Care 2012 for food and drink in early years settings.

To support compliance, inspection and buy in from the sector and inspectorate, support materials and training will also be developed. Early discussions with the relevant inspectorates have been positive and a dietitian is working with Welsh Government officials to develop the standards.

My officials are now considering options to support implementation and compliance of the new standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca". The script is cursive and fluid.

Rebecca Evans AC/AM

Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Services and Public Health