



phlebotomy. The Welsh Government and NHS Wales must develop an enforced all-Wales locum strategy which includes maximum fees for doctors.

3. Social services and integrated care

Social care must be an integral and forward thinking partner in winter care planning. Improved collaborative team working across health and social care should break down boundaries, with social services proactively encouraged to speed up the transfer of care out of hospital. This will require extra resource for social care teams across Wales, especially for those based in hospitals and working on the front line of winter care.

We remain unconvinced that health boards have learned from past experience. Winter planning should have begun already, with strategies being introduced now to plan ahead for the autumn. One of the biggest pieces of feedback we received from our members was that the most important interventions this past winter simply did not happen in time to make a real difference to patient flow, outcomes and experience.

The Committee may want to consider following up on this piece of work with the health secretary and the health boards, and the RCP would be happy to support this with any written or oral evidence that you may find useful.

If you would like any further information, please contact my colleague Lowri Jackson, RCP senior policy and public affairs adviser for Wales, by emailing Lowri.Jackson@rcplondon.ac.uk.

With best wishes,

Dr Gareth Llewelyn

RCP vice president for Wales
Is-lywydd yr RCP dros Gymru