

Pip Ford MBE MCSP
CSP Public Affairs & Policy Manager for Wales

14 December 2017

Dear Pip

Thank you for your letter dated 5 December 2017 which you sent on behalf of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy in respect of the Committee's report into Primary Care clusters. I have noted its contents and the updated information you have provided in it.

The Committee's report set out our view on all aspects of this inquiry's terms of reference, including whether clusters can reduce demand on GPs; how the contributions of the new multi-disciplinary teams can be measured; and also whether there is a robust enough framework to evaluate cluster outcomes.

Based on the evidence provided to us, including the written and oral evidence from the CSP and others, the report concludes 'whilst there was strong evidence in support of the great potential clusters have to reduce demands on GPs, there was limited data to show this was actually happening on the ground' (para 69).

A key theme emerging from the evidence is highlighted on page 59 of the report in respect of 'concerns that there is limited quantifiable evidence on the impact of clusters'. When asked about the limited hard evidence on the impact of clusters you told us it was 'early days' and that you 'haven't seen official evidence'. We also noted your written evidence which stated that 'Measuring the benefits of physiotherapy as part of the multi-disciplinary team in primary care will have to be looked at across a range of areas. These include: Benefits for GPs – freeing up their time, with fewer repeat appointments and less money spent on locums'.



I'm pleased to say the Committee's findings were fully supportive of the multi-disciplinary approach, including MSK services. On page 33 we say that 'general practice is clearly a core element of primary care, but increasingly a wide range of other services and professionals have a vital role in its delivery'. On page 43 we also refer to the 'obvious and substantial benefits to the multi-disciplinary team approach'.

I am very grateful for the CSPs on-going support for the Committee's scrutiny work. Your letter has been circulated to all Members of the Committee and will be published on our website. I'm also pleased that you are able to represent the CSP at our primary care event on 17 January where there will be an opportunity for stakeholders and Members to discuss the report further.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

