



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/06109/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

18 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April regarding Petition P-05-866 about the Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign in Wales.

Wales is seen as leading the way in the UK in making sepsis recognition and treatment a top priority within the NHS. A huge amount of work has been done since 2012 when Wales was the first country in the world to implement the National Early Warning Score system - known as NEWS – to ensure early escalation of deteriorating patients. In May 2016, NHS Wales gained recognition for its contribution to sepsis awareness by winning the Global Sepsis Award in the “Governments and Healthcare Authorities” category.

Building on this recognised success, in March this year **#NEWSInYourCommunity** was launched. NEWS is already being widely used in the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) and in many community and primary care settings. The RRAILS team within 1000 Lives Improvement is supporting district nursing and community nursing teams, care homes staff and GPs across Wales to assess their patients (using NEWS) for signs of sickness and acute deterioration, including Sepsis. At the launch event, involving over 100 community leads, NEWS is being communicated as a single language for assessing sickness across primary, secondary and community care, empowering and giving confidence to junior staff to raise concerns and escalate treatment at an early stage.

We have supported World Sepsis Day since its inauguration in 2013 and in 2017 I attended the all-Wales event being sponsored by the 1000 Lives Improvement team where work on sepsis was discussed. We also have a positive relationship with the UK Sepsis Trust (UKST), which is delivering the Just Ask: Could it be sepsis? campaign with Public Health England.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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.

National awareness campaigns are complex and evidence of effectiveness is difficult to demonstrate. I recognise the importance of raising public awareness of the dangers of sepsis but it is also important to strike the right balance with messages about the appropriate use of antibiotics and the risk of creating public anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services