

Julie Morgan AC/AM

**Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/JM/1564/19

Dai Lloyd AM
Chair
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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25 April 2019

Dear Dai,

With over a year having passed since the publication of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's valuable report on loneliness and social isolation, I wanted to update the committee on the progress made to date by the Welsh Government on tackling these important issues.

We remain committed to developing a cross-government strategy which will cover all ages; from children and young people feeling lonely or isolated due to being bullied at school, to older people as they move away from home and into residential care.

You will be aware in October last year we launched the consultation document 'Connected Communities'. The response to the document and the four public consultation events we held was overwhelming, with many wide-ranging comments and examples of successful interventions. Some of the key messages raised will no doubt be familiar to committee members: the importance of reducing stigma, better access to information and the need to develop and support local solutions and community resilience.

On 29 March, I issued a Written Statement highlighting some of the key messages from the consultation responses and a statement about the next steps we propose to take:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-connected-communities-outcome-loneliness-and-social-isolation-consultation>

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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.

<https://llyw.cymru/datganiad-ysgrifenedig-cysylltu-cymunedau-canlyniad-yr-ymgyngoriad-unigrwydd-ac-ynysigrwydd>

The Written Statement contains a link to the full consultation summary report.

To help shape the strategy, my officials continue to engage with colleagues across the Welsh Government, colleagues in the Scottish and UK Governments, external stakeholders and to visit projects working to address loneliness and isolation.

In line with the committee's recommendations, we have also commissioned two pieces of research:

- A review of the impact loneliness and social isolation can have on health and well-being and increased service use.
- A review of intergenerational contact, loneliness and social isolation.

The findings of this research will be published shortly.

Over the coming months we will continue to work across government and engage with external partners to develop a final strategy for publication in the autumn and raise awareness and reduce stigma by way of a national conversation/campaign.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Morgan AC/AM

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