

QE 40

Ymchwiliad i Fil Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol (Ansawdd ac Ymgysylltu) (Cymru)

Inquiry into the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Coleg Brenhinol y Seiciatryddion

Response from Royal College of Psychiatrists

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's Scrutiny of the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill

Written Evidence from the Royal College of Psychiatrists

For further information, please contact:

The Royal College of Psychiatrists in Wales (The College) is the professional medical body responsible for developing and supporting psychiatrists throughout their careers, and in setting and raising standards of psychiatry throughout Wales.

The College aims to improve outcomes for people with mental disorders and the mental health of individuals, their families and communities. In order to achieve this, the College sets standards and promotes excellence in psychiatry; leads, represents and supports psychiatrists; improves the scientific understanding of mental illness; works with and advocates for patients, carers and their organisations. It also works on the promotion of health and safety in the community with other agencies, including local authorities, the police and probation services. The College has a vital role in representing psychiatric professional expertise to governments and other agencies.

The College would be very happy to provide any further evidence the Committee needs, in writing or in person.

The General Principles of the Bill

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is in support of the general principles of the bill. The College doesn't anticipate any financial implications or obstacles because of this bill.

A Duty of Candour

The Royal College of Psychiatrists' supports the duty of candour and the principle of demonstrating trust and honesty with patients¹. We believe that clear and strong governance arrangements are vital to efficient delivery of mental health services and the reporting of incidents and good record keeping plays a crucial role in this. This reporting is already the onus of individuals and clinicians within the Welsh NHS. We feel that duty should be extended to health boards not least because it would bring Wales into line with England² and Scotland³, but because it would encourage clinicians to report incidents, reducing the likelihood for dismissal, disciplinary action or clinical negligence⁴. The implementation of the duty of candour is necessary in order to acknowledge that some clinical errors may be the result or responsibility of wider organisational processes.

A Duty of Quality

The College also welcomes the duty of quality on Health and Social Care Providers. Promoting collaboration between Local Health Boards (LHB), NHS Trusts and Special Health Authorities will result in a shared responsibility of care. It will enable better integration of primary and secondary care and between health and social care⁵. The proper reporting of incidence which should arise between the duty of candour, the duty of quality and the annual reports that must be produced should provide a proper learning opportunity for health organisations to improve the quality of services they deliver. In addition to this, the College welcomes the bill's commitment to including the experience of individuals as an element of quality; services should always be person-centred in design.

An All Wales Citizen Voice Body

¹ Richards, V., Lloyd, K. 2017. *Core Values for Psychiatrists*. Available at: https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/better-mh-policy/college-reports/college-report-cr204.pdf?sfvrsn=5e4ff507_2 [accessed: 22/07/19]

² CQC. 2016. *Duty of Candour*. Available at: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/regulations-enforcement/regulation-20-duty-candour#full-regulation> [accessed: 22/07/19]

³ Care Inspectorate. 2019. *Duty of Candour Report on Discussions and Final Recommendations*. Available at: http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/Professionals/DoC_M_R_GROUP_FINAL_REPORT.pdf [accessed: 22/07/2019]

⁴ Royal College of Psychiatrists. 2018. Submission to White Paper on Services Fit for the Future: Quality and Governance in Health and Care in Wales. In: Welsh Government. *White Paper – Responses*. Cardiff: Welsh Government. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-02/180226white-paper-responses.pdf> [accessed: 31/07/2019]

⁵ Ibid.

The College agrees with the need to strengthen voice of citizens across health and social services. This body should ensure that the citizens voice is the priority and that it is heard loud and clear particularly as the voice of those with mental health issues is sometimes underrepresented. We would ask that when the new All Wales Citizen Voice Body is constructed that it is ensured that there is equal representation on the body between those with physical and mental health issues, especially as Community Health Councils have, in the past, been less concerned with the mental health services compared to physical health services. We would also like to emphasise that it is necessary to ensure the representation of young people on the All Wales Citizen Voice Body, which is sometimes more difficult to achieve. It is important that collective planning of services with service users and service providers takes place upon a strong evidence base. This is vital for good health and social care. It is important that the Citizen Voice Body is an arms-length body and that it has a link to Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) so that voice is clear in the collective planning of services⁶.

⁶ Ibid.