

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref CSP/HVG/602
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/GT/03542/12

Kirsty Williams AM
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

10th November 2012

Dear Kirsty,

I write following an issue you raised at the 3 October HSSC related to the assessment of cognition with regards to Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC) arrangements. Time was limited on the day, and I undertook to respond in more detail following the meeting.

CHC arrangements vary between all four UK countries. Welsh Ministers issued a National CHC Framework in 2010, which set out both policy regarding CHC, and the requirements placed on health boards in implementing the Framework. Any consideration of eligibility is based upon comprehensive multidisciplinary (MDT) assessment, and it is the recommendation of the MDT that is considered by health boards when they make a decision regarding eligibility.

Included within the Framework is the Decision Support Tool (DST). This is not an assessment process. Its purpose is to capture the range of comprehensive MDT assessments undertaken, and to support MDT consideration, discussion, and the recording of a recommendation on eligibility. The domains set out in the DST do differ from those used in England. In fact the process to record assessments and capture decisions differs across the four UK Countries. Cognition features as a domain, and the MDT is able to record in some detail the issues relating to cognition. An additional domain is also included within the DST to capture any information on an individual that the MDT feels is not reflected properly within the other domains.

A review of the 2010 Framework is planned for 2013, to follow on from a Wales Audit Office report on the Framework that is due shortly and there will be an opportunity then to undertake a further assessment of this issue and to consider whether any changes are needed. Any revisions to the Framework will be subject to consultation.

I hope I have provided clarity on this matter. On that basis I am issuing this letter to all members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gwenda".

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM

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Cc: All Members of the Health and Social Care Committee