

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-456
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00995/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

Naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk

13 March 2013

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of 27 February following a petition from Helen Jones regarding the provision for Dementia sufferers in Wales.

The responsibilities of Health Boards regarding Continuing NHS Healthcare are set out in the 2010 National Framework for Implementation in Wales. This Framework sets out the requirements to undertake assessments in a timely manner. It is designed to ensure the individual and their family/carers are appropriately engaged in the process, with their views properly captured and considered.

The Decision Support Tool (DST), although not an assessment in itself, captures and collates information from a range of assessments into one document to support decision making. It outlines the levels of care within each domain to reflect a range of needs. The DST also records information not captured anywhere in the document, such as the advice and views of a person's family and those staff in assessing individuals. Although not all domains have a severe or priority level, the levels set out in the DST provide sufficient information to capture a comprehensive picture of a person's needs.

I recognise, however, arrangements to determine and provide CHC need to be effective. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) is currently finalising its national study relating to the present arrangements. As part of this work it will consider the effectiveness of the DST as well as the CHC National Programme, the 2010 National Framework and the systems which support them (including the training of staff). The WAO is due to publish the findings of its study in the near future. Its report will contain recommendations for Welsh Ministers as well as for Health Boards and Local Authorities. As part of this process my officials are engaged with the WAO to discuss high level issues as they emerge. I understand the WAO is aware of concerns raised in relation to the DST and is, as part of its study, considering its appropriateness.

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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I have my own commitment to undertake a review of the CHC Framework and to address outstanding issues related to it. This review will follow the publication of the WAO's findings to allow any relevant recommendations made from it to be considered.

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

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

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