

Mark Drakeford 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 MD/01315/14

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

7 April 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 25 March, in which you raise concerns, on behalf of Mrs Helen Jones, regarding the consultation process on the revised National Framework for Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC).

Further to our correspondence in August last year, I formally notified the Petitions Committee, the Health and Social Care Committee and opposition party leaders on 13 December of the launch of the consultation process on the CHC Framework. However, my officials did not contact the Clerk of the Petitions Committee and Mrs Jones was not therefore personally involved in the consultation process. Although the formal process of consultation has concluded, my officials would be happy to meet with Mrs Jones so her views can be considered and inform the revised Framework. Should Mrs Jones be willing to meet, I would be grateful if your committee clerk could provide Mrs Jones' contact details to my official, Lynda Chandler at ChandlerL@Wales.GSI.Gov.uk. I have also asked my officials to contact Mrs Jones to apologise.

The three regional events were held in Carmarthen, Cardiff and North Wales during February. Invitations to these events were only extended to practitioners of CHC within Local Health Boards and Local Authorities, as the events were designed to explore the practicalities of implementing the proposed revisions to the Framework.

My officials have been working closely with health professionals, user groups, the Wales Audit Office and the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales to inform the development of the revised Framework. The consultation exercise launched through the Welsh Government website was well-publicised and has been the process for wider engagement with stakeholders and the public. My officials also wrote to Health Boards, Local Authorities and third and independent sector organisations. These included the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, the Welsh Local Government Association, Care Forum Wales, the Welsh NHS Confederation and Community Health Councils.

My officials also made the Task and Finish Groups involved in the development of the revised Framework aware of the consultation exercise. These Task and Finish Groups included representation from third sector groups, such as the Alzheimer's society. Officials separately contacted Carers Wales, MIND Cymru, Stonewall Cymru, Disability Wales, Race Equality Wales, Learning Disability Wales and the Over-50s Forum Co-ordinators. Many of these and other organisations publicised and provided details of the consultation to their own stakeholders.

The testing of the new Decision Support Tool (DST) has taken place in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Hywel Dda University Health Board. Early indications are that the use of the English version of the DST will improve the quality and consistency of the evidence used to determine eligibility but is unlikely to significantly change the outcome. This will continue to be monitored as the new Framework is implemented.

We have received more than 50 responses, from health, local authority and the third sector, as well as members of the public as part of the formal consultation period. In addition to this there have been a number of informal meetings and other discussions, all feedback is being used to inform the development of the revised Framework. My officials are in the process of reviewing the responses and we plan to issue the revised Framework by the end of June 2014.

Best wishes

Mark.

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