

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-03-222
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05792/12

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

Committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Dear Bill

I am writing to provide the Committee with an update on the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People and Fracture Liaison Services in Wales as requested.

The NSF for Older People sets out a specific standard for falls and fractures. In addition to this, some of the other standards, such as health promotion and hospital care, are pertinent to this work.

The falls and fractures standard in the NSF particularly focussed attention on the delivery of fracture liaison services (FLS) in Wales. The services are supported by a compelling evidence-base and are highly effective in preventing subsequent fractures. An audit by the Welsh Osteoporosis Advisory Group is due for publication shortly and it shows there has been an increase in the provision of FLS in Wales but some further work is also needed.

The NSF has been independently reviewed by Health Inspectorate Wales and Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales. The review found the NSF has made a positive impact and that a new phase of work can build on progress to date. In the next phase of the NSF, the increased delivery of FLS by the NHS could be one of the priorities, based on the audit. Their increased provision could make a significant positive impact on health and social care.

More broadly, there is an opportunity to tackle the challenges associated with falls and fractures. For example, in 2012 – 2013, osteoporosis management is included as a specific item in the General Medical Contract. Furthermore, there are opportunities to consider all the work currently active in Wales, such as the Falls Collaborative and the National Exercise Referral Scheme, so that a coherent and co-ordinated approach can be taken. Through a partnership approach, I expect to see the falls and fractures agenda progressed systematically in Wales.

Regards
Lesley

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