



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/0902/19

Mark Isherwood AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

7 March 2019

Dear Mark,

I am writing further to my letter dated 15 February in response to the recent neurological survey undertaken by the Wales Neurological Alliance (WNA) on behalf of the Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Neurological Conditions.

Health Boards and Local Authorities in Wales are responsible for meeting the health and social care needs of their population which includes providing services for people with neurological conditions. As such, my officials have shared the WNA survey with health board medical directors, directors of social services and chairs of regional partnership boards and asked that they consider the recommendations and take appropriate action. It has also been circulated to the members of the Carers Ministerial Advisory Group.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to ensure compliance with the legislation and take actions to carry out their statutory duties in respect of individuals and carers with care and/or support needs. Individuals have clear rights to assessments, for eligible needs to be met and to receive information, advice and assistance to ensure they understand how to access those rights.

We have committed to an evaluation, to explore how the Act has been implemented at a national, regional and local level. The evaluation commenced in November 2018 and the contract has been awarded to the University of South Wales. The evaluation will run for a minimum of three years and will include engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and service users, including carers. We will ensure that the University of South Wales are sighted on the WNA survey's findings and that the impact the Act has had on people living with neurological conditions is considered as part of the evaluation.

The Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) continues to drive forward our vision for improving neurological services across Wales more effectively and at greater pace, in conjunction with health boards' local vision for their resident populations. The group is currently focusing on reviewing and improving pathways for people living with neurological conditions.

The NCIG is also in the process of finalising a new neurological and stroke specific tool to report on patient reported experience measures and patient reported outcomes measures.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

(PREMs and PROMs). The tool will support a better understanding of the needs of people living with neurological conditions and their carers, and the outcomes will be used to inform future plans.

I hope this response reassures you that the Welsh Government recognises the impact that neurological conditions has on individuals lives and is committed to raising awareness of neurological conditions and ensuring those affected by any kind of neurological condition have timely access to high quality pathways of care, irrespective of where they live, whether these are delivered through hospitals or in the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services