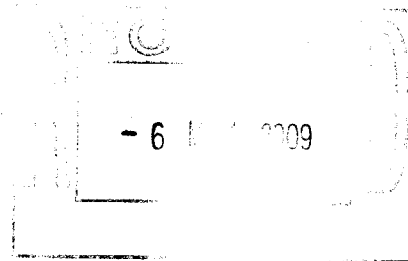




Val Lloyd AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA.



5-5-09

Dear Val Laloyd

Re: Footcare in Cynon Valley

CDT

I am writing to you on behalf of the above, Fifty Plus Older People's Forum. We have petitioned in the area for better, affordable Footcare; which involves older people who are represented in the Forum, and those who are housebound.

David Davies one of our members highlighted this issue when he realised the NHS were referring to Toe Nail cutting etc: as a social need and not a medical one. This has brought the issue to our attention as we all currently pay for such a service in our own homes as it isn't readily available on the NHS.

After considerable research we find that some GP Surgery's offer Chiropody/Podiatry service in some part of Wales and even some parts of RCT. However, we feel once again this is a post code lottery, service for some and not for others.

We have met with Age Concern Cymru who have printed a document on this subject 'Little steps can make a Big Difference' and are carrying out some research to consider this issue. Falls Prevention – the new strategy takes into consideration that falls can happen if that person has long toe nails/hard skin/in-growing toe nails which are untreated. Routine foot care services are a simple and inexpensive way of preventing problems and avoiding the necessity of more expensive hospital based interventions. To prevent falls and improve foot care, more funding should be made available to voluntary organisations for example, the 'Wellbeing Regeneration' organisation in Burryport, who are a Social Enterprise offering an affordable service to house-bound older people.

We the Older People's Forum in Cynon Valley, present the petition, and would like you to address this issue of Footcare – Post Code Lottery in Wales.  
It has been proven over time, that prevention is better than cure, so please can you help and prevent future accidents/diseases/conditions by endeavouring to look at the issue; is it Medical or Social Care for Chiropody/Podiatry services in Wales?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sian Jones  
On behalf of Cynon Valley Forum.

