

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau – Papur Briffio

PET(3)-05-11: 15 Mawrth 2011

Rhan 1: Deisebau newydd

Mae'r adran hon yn rhoi ychydig o wybodaeth gefndir am ddeisebau newydd sydd i'w hystyried gan y Pwyllgor ar 15 Mawrth 2011.

1. P-03-317 Cyllid ar gyfer y celfyddydau Hijinx

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Yn dilyn y toriadau anghymesur yn arian refeniw Theatr Hijinx, rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod digon o arian ar gael er mwyn gwneud yn siwr nad yw gwaith arloesol a theilwng Theatr Hijinx mewn perygl. Mae'r cwmni unigryw hwn o Gymru wedi treulio 30 mlynedd yn datblygu cyfleoedd i bobl sydd ag anhawsterau dysgu i gael eu cynnwys ar bob lefel a bydd y toriadau hyn yn golygu gostyngiad sylweddol yn y ddarpariaeth bresennol.

Cefndir

Cynigiwyd y ddeiseb hon gan Mike Clark a chasglodd 1819 o lofnodion. Yn unol a gweithdrefn y Pwyllgor mae'r Cadeirydd wedi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth. Mae copi o'r llythyr hwn wedi'i gynnwys isod.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Alun Ffred Jones AC / AM
Minister for Heritage
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-317

09 March 2011

P-03-317 Hijinx Funding for Arts

The Petitions Committee has received the following petition from Mike Clark which collected 1812 signatures:

Following the disproportionate cut in the revenue funding of Hijinx Theatre we call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure sufficient funding is available so that the exemplary and ground breaking work undertaken by Hijinx is not threatened. This unique Welsh company has spent 30 years developing opportunities for people with learning difficulties to be included at all levels and this cut will result in a serious reduction in their current provision.

Supporting information from the petitioner is enclosed. The Committee would like your views on the issues raised by the petition and to ask what other funding streams could be made available to Hijinx. We would also welcome your views on the petitioner's views that the reduction in funding 'flies in the face of the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities'.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Yours sincerely

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

Enc: Supporting information from the petitioner

- Hijinx Theatre is a professional theatre company founded in 1981 touring high quality productions to small venues throughout Wales and beyond. A large part of our remit is working with learning disabled and general community groups.
- Hijinx endeavour to cast learning disabled actors alongside professionally trained actors whenever possible, creating an inclusive cast and, as there is currently no professional drama training for talented adults with learning disabilities in Wales, this is something we are addressing as a matter of urgency with plans in development to provide such training.
- Hijinx set up the **Odyssey Theatre** project in 1999 – funded by the National Lottery up until 31st March 2011 [**not** part of the revenue grant]. Odyssey is a participatory community group for adults of all abilities who also collaborate with several local organizations Meadowbank Special School (a school for children with severe communication problems) and music students from Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- **Odyssey was runner up in the National Lottery Awards, Best Arts Project category in 2009.**
- **Hijinx Outreach** offers workshops and projects to people within the learning disabled community
- **Hijinx Outreach** produces **Unity Festival** - a week-long mixed ability festival of performances, workshops and other activities from companies across the world in collaboration with the WMC and Mencap Cymru - (historically funded through additional fundraising and with revenue grant support for core staff wages and general office costs.)
- Hijinx's revenue grant in 2010/11 is £234,448 + £29,990 lottery funding for Odyssey Theatre project - a figure which represents standstill funding for the last 5 years.
- From 1st April 2011 the grant will be £160,000 to **include** Odyssey. This represents a cut of £74,448 + £29,990 = £104,438
- All ACW Quality Monitoring forms over the past three years have rated the company's work "good" or "excellent"
- ACW's decision flies in the face of the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities and is contrary to the aspirations of it's own Investment Review.
- With the new grant Hijinx will not be able develop work with people with learning disabilities and it represents a radical reduction in the activity currently offered.
- There **will** be staff redundancies and a re-structuring of the company – and a marginalized community will suffer.

- Hijinx are unique and innovative - the only company in Wales who offer professional opportunities to adults with learning disabilities, both as performers and workshop assistants. Hijinx are committed to inclusive working and believe that everyone has something to offer regardless of ability.

2. P-03-318 Gwasanaethau mamolaeth trawsffiniol

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni sydd wedi llofnodi isod yn nodi'r cynnig i symud yr uned famolaeth dan arweiniad meddyg ymgynghorol, yr uned gofal dwys i'r newydd-anedig a'r uned plant i gleifion mewnol o Ysbyty Brenhinol Amwythig i Ysbyty'r Dywysoges Frenhinol yn Telford.

Rydym yn credu y byddai hyn yn achosi llawer o galedi a straen i gleifion a'u teuluoedd sy'n teithio o Sir Drefaldwyn. Byddai'n ychwanegu 20 munud at daith sydd eisoes yn cymryd 50 munud ar y gorau, ac mae'n anochel y bydd amseroedd ymateb ambiwlansys yn cynyddu'n sylweddol.

Mae'n hanfodol nad yw'r cynigion hyn yn cael eu hystyried ar wahân i'r cynigion yng Nghymru a bod Llywodraeth Cymru'n mabwysiadu dull strategol o ymdrin â materion iechyd trawsffiniol, er mwyn sicrhau bod anghenion cleifion o ganolbarth Cymru yn cael eu hystyried yn llawn mewn unrhyw gynigion o ran ysbytai dalgylch.

Felly, rydym yn galw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ymwneud yn llawn â'r broses ymgynghori 'Keeping it in the County', er mwyn sicrhau nad yw cleifion o ganolbarth Cymru o dan anfantais o ganlyniad i unrhyw newidiadau.

Cefndir

Cynigiwyd y ddeiseb hon gan Mrs Helen Jervis a chasglodd 164 o lofnodion. Yn ogystal, casglodd y deisebydd tua 30,000 o lofnodion ar gyfer deisebau cysylltiol. Yn unol â gweithdrefn y Pwyllgor mae'r Cadeirydd wedi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog dros lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Mae copi o'r llythyr hwn wedi'i gynnwys isod.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Edwina Hart AC / AM
Minister for Health and Social
Services
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-318

09 March 2011

Edwina

P-03-318 Cross border maternity services

The Petitions Committee has received the following petition from Helen Jervis which collected 164 signatures:

We, the undersigned, note the proposal to move the consultant-led maternity unit, neonatal intensive care unit and child inpatient unit from the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) to the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) at Telford.

We believe this would cause a great deal of hardship and stress for patients and their families travelling from Montgomeryshire. It would add an extra twenty minutes onto a journey which is already fifty minutes at best and ambulance response times will inevitably be significantly increased.

It is vital that these proposals are not considered in isolation to proposals in Wales and that the Welsh Government adopts a strategic approach to cross border health issues, to ensure that the needs of patients from Mid Wales are fully represented in any proposals at catchment hospitals.

We therefore call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to fully engage in the 'Keeping it in the County' consultation process, to ensure that patients from Mid Wales are not disadvantaged by any changes.

The Committee would like your views on the issues raised by the petition and what the Welsh Government's approach is to addressing such cross border health issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Yours sincerely

Christine Chapman

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

Rhan 2: Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ddeisebau blaenorol

Mae'r adran hon yn rhoi ychydig o wybodaeth gefndir am y diweddaraf ar ddeisebau sydd i'w hystyried gan y Pwyllgor ar 15 Mawrth 2011.

1. P-03-150 Safonau Canser Cenedlaethol

Geiriad y ddeiseb

'Yr ydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i ymchwilio a yw'r strategaethau a'r cynlluniau gweithredu angenrheidiol ar waith gan Fyrddau Iechyd Lleol er mwyn cyrraedd y targed o ran cydymffurfio â'r Safonau Canser Cenedlaethol erbyn mis Mawrth 2009 yn Rhondda Cynon Taf a ledled Cymru, fel mater o frys.'

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-150.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Rhondda Breast Friends

Nifer y llofnodion: Casglodd yr e-ddeiseb 43 o lofnodion. Hefyd mae Rhondda Breast Friends wedi datblygu siarter ynghylch gwelliannau sy'n ofynnol i'r gwasanaeth gofal canser, gyda chefnogaeth 1,475 o bobl sydd wedi llofnodi.

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 9 Gorffennaf 2008, 6 Tachwedd 2008, 13 Ionawr 2009, 10 Chwefror 2009, 31 Mawrth 2009, 24 Tachwedd 2009, 19 Ionawr, 23 Mawrth a 27 Ebrill 2010, 15 Mehefin, 30 Tachwedd 2010 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod ynghyd ag ymatebion gan Fyrddau Iechyd Lleol.

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

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

Our ref: EH/00389/11

Your ref: P-03-150

Christine Chapman AM

Chair - Petitions Committee

committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Bae Caerdydd
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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg: 0845 010 4400
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E-Mail: Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

10 February 2011

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 January about Petition P-03-150 National Cancer Standards.

Accurate and timely diagnosis is a core aspect of GPs training and continuing development. GPs are encouraged to reflect on their practice and each must undertake an annual appraisal to review learning needs and define a personal development plan that is reviewed at the next appraisal meeting. Through the Quality and Outcomes framework, GPs are encouraged to review significant events such as late diagnosis, and to identify any change in practice that might be appropriate

It must always be remembered that in the community setting the incidence of many cancers is low and that early presentations may mimic very common, non serious conditions. It is important that GPs and patients discuss likely diagnoses and the risks and the benefits of watchful waiting, investigation or referral. If cancer is suspected then NICE guidance applies but GPs must balance the risks of over investigation and the possibility of delayed diagnosis.

The Welsh Assembly Government, through Health Challenge Wales working with the voluntary sector, has funded work to raise public awareness of, and change attitudes to cancer. This has included raising awareness of testicular cancer and the provision of information through the Health Challenge Wales website.

I have also approved participation in an international project involving a number of countries with the same or better cancer survival rates to try and find out what are the main reasons for the survival differences. This study is looking at awareness and understanding of cancer across the participating countries, with a view to informing future cancer policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M. S.', written in a cursive style.

150



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

**Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd
Whitchurch Hospital**

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Phone 029 2069 3191

Heol Parc, Yr Eglwys Newydd
Caerdydd, CF14 7XB
Ffôn 029 2069 3191

Eich cyf/Your ref:
Ein cyf/Our ref: JW-jb-02-826
Welsh Health Telephone Network:
Direct Line/Llinell uniongychol: 02920 745682

**Jan Williams OBE
Chief Executive**

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Chapman

RE: P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

In response to your letter dated 26 January 2011 regarding the above, please find below information presented, in the order requested. Collaborative Rehabilitation Standards and Implementation of the Key Worker action plans, together with a proposed key worker information card, are also available in detail, if required these.

Q1 Is there a shortage of Cancer Nurse Specialists, and if so, how this impacts on your ability to meet cancer standards;

Answer:

Cardiff & Vale UHB has been and continues to work towards improvements in compliance against cancer standards, including:

- determining ways of obtaining prompt access to psychology services,
- addressing the standards that cannot be met due to the lack of CNS
 - Currently the CNS shortage in Dermatology, Colorectal Tumour and Thyroid sites is being addressed by the UHB Director of Nursing and Medical Director and joint working being considered, to provide cover for the CNS role.
 - An oncology Nurse Specialist is now in post in Gynaecology.
- improving multi disciplinary team attendance and ensuring all specified professions are present including palliative care
- ensuring completion of all the required audits.

Q 2 Do you have staff who are able to give advice on benefits to palliative care patients and whether these staff are fully trained

Answer:

In addition to the information available via the Social Work Department and the Citizens Advice Bureau, six Benefits Officers have been appointed by Tenovus from

lottery funding. Discussions have taken place between representatives from Tenovus and the UHB Cancer Services Department to determine how these postholders will best provide information and support to cancer patients. The signposting role of the Key Worker will be valuable in this respect.

Q3 Will you be in a position to meet the National Standards for Rehabilitation of Adult Cancer Patients, which we understand will come into force in April 2011. If you are not in a position to meet these standards, what are the barriers to full compliance?

Answer:

To ensure that patients are treated equitably and consistently across the entire cancer pathway, including secondary, primary and tertiary care, all the Health Boards in South East Wales and Velindre Cancer Centre have worked in collaboration to develop Action Plans for both the Full Rehabilitation Standard for Adult Patients with Cancer and the Implementation of the Key Worker.

As part of this process, a co-ordinating group has been established with appropriate representation from each body, to improve communication and to plot progress on a regular basis, with submissions made to the Cancer Management teams within each organisation.

Initial meetings have been held with the Cancer Leads and managers to discuss the requirements of the Rehabilitation Standards and, in particular, the Key Worker implementation action plan.

Current Status

Many patients are already being supported through their cancer journey by a key worker, or someone they can contact. Some cancer sites already have a key worker system in place, which works well. These systems are now being formalised and documented, with named individuals identified. It will be challenging to implement the initiative at those cancer sites without Cancer Nurse Specialist (CNS) staff. This is currently being addressed.

In most cases the patient journey is identified in the initial MDT meeting. The initial key worker is easily identifiable and is usually a CNS or Allied Healthcare Professional (AHP).

Referring on after treatment is the subject of ongoing discussions with primary care leads to ensure clear definition.

The function of the key worker system is already being practiced in many of the cancer sites within Cardiff and Vale UHB and just needs formalising. The new cancer key worker initiative will support and enhance areas of existing good practice and will build on current practice.

The UHB is developing the organisational relationships between primary and secondary care, with and a greater involvement of community care, to fully support the patient following the acute treatment phase. This will be an area for further

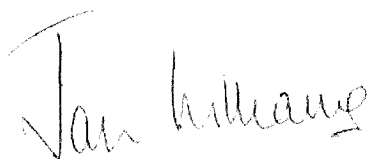
evaluation and careful attention during the implementation phase of the cancer key worker.

A paper outlining the role of the key worker has been developed by Cancer Services and has been circulated for consultation to all relevant staff within the cancer care role.

With the work that has already been undertaken, and the planned programme of work, we will comply with the minimum requirement by which every cancer patient will be allocated a dedicated Key Worker at every stage of his/her patient journey. Each patient will have contact details for his/her Key Worker on how to contact them.

I hope that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Jan Williams
Chief Executive



GIG
NHS

Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Y Prif Weithredwr

Chief Executive

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Ref: AC/CH/sj

23rd February 2011

Ms Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Pier Head Street
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



Dear Ms Chapman

I write in response to your letter of the 26th January regarding further information about the compliance against the National Cancer Standards.

I hope our additional information assists the Committee in its consideration of support to cancer patient in Wales

National Cancer Standards

- **whether there is a shortage of Cancer Nurse Specialists, and if so, how this impacts on your ability to meet cancer standards;**

Cancer Nurse Specialists are part of tumour specific cancer multidisciplinary teams which deliver cancer care from Cancer Centres (and in some places cancer units but as part of a wider multidisciplinary team).

Cancer Centres are designated as such as there is a configuration of services providing diagnosis, investigation and all therapeutic options including surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. They also have importantly, access to intensive care support as is sometimes required during active treatment.

Powys patients are referred for cancer treatment to bordering Cancer Centres in North and South Wales as well as to English Cancer Networks.

From referral, throughout the investigation period to diagnosis the patient will be supported by his/her general practitioner and a specialist nurse from the Cancer Centre. At diagnosis, usually a Clinical Nurse specialist who has expertise in the particular cancer will be assigned to work with the patient to support and assist navigation through complex procedures and transitions between professional teams such as from surgery to chemotherapy.

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Y Plasty, Bronllys, Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LS
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Health Board Headquarters
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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithred Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

Powys tHB does not have a District General Hospital within its boundaries, our patients are treated in surrounding hospitals based on their geographical location as a result the tHB does not contribute to cancer standards directly but is responsible for ensuring that patients resident in Powys are provided with care which meets the established standards.

Powys tHB does not employ any Cancer Nurse Specialists. Whilst the patient is receiving active treatment he/she will maintain contact with the Cancer team as well as his/her General Practice.

When treatment is less active and remission or cure is achieved the patient will be supported by the General Practice with the assistance of other co –key workers such as physiotherapists, lymphoedema specialists, occupational therapists etc who will be concerned with rehabilitation.

For patients who may not recover from the illness, or who have complex problems, there is a specialist palliative care team of clinical nurse specialists and consultants in palliative medicine who work in partnership with General Practice to support patients who are spending more time at home because they are too unwell to travel.

□ Whether you have staff who are able to give advice on benefits to palliative care patients and whether these staff are fully trained and

Powys t HB has the support of a Welfare Benefits Officer who deploys two Benefits Advisors for Powys to provide an excellent service to palliative patients. The Specialist Palliative Care Team is confident of very timely and prompt support for this vulnerable group of patients.

It is likely their heavy case load may be shared with the introduction of the Hospice at Home Service by St David's Foundation in South and Mid-Powys, as described above in the provision of a spectrum of support provided by a team among whom are benefits advisors.

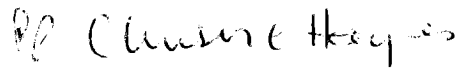
□ Whether you will be in a position to meet the National Standards for Rehabilitation of Adult Cancer Patients, which we understand will come into force in April 2011. If you are not in a position to meet these standards, what are the barriers to full compliance?

As in the case of the Cancer Nurse Specialists, Powys care delivery both due to rurality and geography is different. In the Cancer Centres and Cancer Units which are established in urban populations the designation of a key worker, whether it is a Nurse Specialist, AHP, Social worker etc is relatively easy and likely to remain with the patient until the identified problem has been resolved. The standards for Rehabilitation require assessment of patients in many domains which are not unique to cancer patients and it is recognized that this holistic assessment is fundamental to the management of all patients with both acute and chronic conditions being supported by the community teams which are developed in Powys. There are no clinicians or therapists dedicated to cancer care, and of necessity most work with all patient groups so the identification of key workers of other than level 1 will not be possible. Patients will identify their General Practitioners as lead for ongoing management and it

is the GP who signposts or refers patients to other professionals. Powys tHB is working on an appropriate model which will ensure effective transfer of care to and from key workers associated with the Cancer MDTs.

I hope that the Committee find this additional information helpful in their further consideration of support available to cancer patient sin Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cottom".

Andrew Cottom
Chief Executive Officer



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board

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01639 683311

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Your ref/Eich Cyf: P-03-150
Our Ref/Ein Cyf: DS/MMT/DG/jw

Dyddiad/Date: 22nd February 2011

Ms. Christine Chapman AM
Chair,
Petitions Committee,
Welsh Assembly Government,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff.
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms. Chapman,

P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

Thank you for your letter dated the 26th January 2011 concerning the delivery of the National Cancer Standards within Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

The Health Board recognises the importance of the Cancer Standards and continues to work to deliver and sustaining these targets within the very challenging financial environment that the NHS finds itself in. In your correspondence you have identified a number of areas for further clarification. The Health Board's response to these is set out below:-

- **Whether there is a shortage of Cancer Nurse Specialists, and if so, how this impacts on your ability to meet cancer standards;**

The Health Board has not experienced a shortage of Cancer Nurse Specialists and is able to successfully recruit to these key posts when vacancies arise.

• Chairman/Cadeirydd: **Win Griffiths**

• Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: **David Sissling**

ABM Headquarters/ Pencadlys ABM, One Talbot Gateway, Seaway Parade, Baglan Energy Park, Port Talbot. SA12 7BR.
Telephone: 01639 683300 Ffon 01639 683300 FAX: 01639 687675 and 01639 687676

Bwrdd Iechyd ABM yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg

ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board
www.abm.wales.nhs.uk

...../cont'd

- **Whether you have staff who are able to give advice on benefits to palliative care patients and whether these staff are fully trained**

Benefits advice is provided by trained workers from within the Maggie's service on site at Singleton Hospital. Additional information is available from within the Health Board's Palliative Care Services.

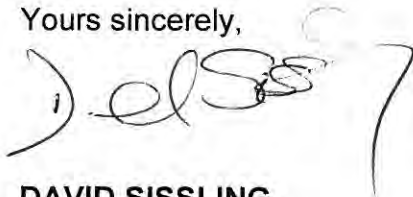
- **Whether you will be in a position to meet the National Standards for Rehabilitation of Adult Cancer Patients, which we understand will come into force in April 2011. If you are not in a position to meet these standards, what are the barriers to full compliance?**

The Health Board recognises the need to meet these Standards. The service currently has a number of Macmillan funded appointments in place that already delivers a large number of the Standards, but the funding for these is time limited. The Health Board is currently reviewing arrangements as to how it can financially sustain these appointments during 2011 and beyond.

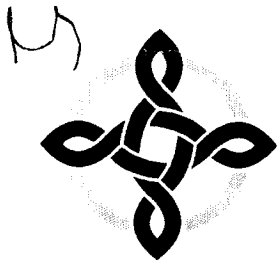
I hope that these comments reassure you that the Health Board is making every endeavour to ensure that these Standards are met within the time limits. Should you require any further clarification, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Sissling', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**DAVID SISSLING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE.**



GIG
NHS

Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board

Ref: JP/CC/JP/MH/vep

Direct Line: 01495 765072

24 February 2011

Christine Chapman AM
Chair Petitions Committee
Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



Dear Ms Chapman

RE: P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

Further to your letter dated 26 January 2011 regarding further information relating to support available to cancer patients, I have now had the opportunity to discuss this matter with cancer services colleagues within Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB).

I am encouraged that on an All Wales basis improvements in service delivery to cancer patients have been observed since the introduction of the All Wales Cancer Standards and certainly within ABHB there have been significant service improvements e.g. the establishment of a dedicated Psychological Support Service for cancer patients.

With regards to the further queries that you raise I will address these in turn as follows:

I can confirm that at the core of the All Wales Cancer Standards is the concept of a fully functional Multi Disciplinary Team, and that a core member of this team is the Cancer Nurse Specialist who in the secondary care environment often undertakes the role of key worker for cancer patients in their respective tumour site. All tumour sites within ABHB have a dedicated Cancer Nurse Specialist and further investment in this staff cohort was observed as part of the implementation of the All Wales Cancer Standards Action Plan for the

Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan
Pencadlys
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Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Aneurin Bevan
Aneurin Bevan Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board

Health Board e.g. a Colorectal Cancer Nurse Specialist for Nevill Hall Hospital was appointed on a substantive basis.

As a result of the All Wales Cancer Standards Action Plan the Health Board undertook a review of Palliative Care input into every Multi Disciplinary Team across all tumour sites and as a result of this each tumour site team has an identified dedicated Palliative Care Specialist Nurse resource.

One of the key milestones of implementing the National Standards for the Rehabilitation of Adults with Cancer is the roll out of the Key Worker concept to co-ordinate a cancer patient's treatment in secondary care, and subsequently within primary care by the end of March 2011. Within ABHB a multidisciplinary Local Implementation Group has been established to agree the way forward of implementing the Key Worker concept. This group reports to the South East Wales Cancer Network Group that is co-ordinating the implementation of the Standards within the Region, and subsequently progress is reported to the South Wales Cancer Network Group that is dedicated to the roll out of this initiative. In many instances the Key worker concept is already in place, it just needed to be formalised and the work within ABHB has recognised that the Key Worker is a concept and an important reference point for the patient and therefore handovers between Key Workers is crucial during the duration of a patient's pathway both within secondary and primary care environments.

I trust that this update provides you with the additional information required for the Petitions Committee but please do not hesitate to contact me further should you wish any further information.

Yours sincerely



Judith Paget
Deputy Chief Executive
For and on behalf of Dr Andrew Goodall, Chief Executive, and signed in his absence



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Bwrdd Iechyd
Hywel Dda
Health Board

Dyddiad/Date: 28th February 2011
Ein cyf/Our ref: PGMH 0210_11
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Mrs Bernardine Rees
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone: 01437 771225
E-bost/E-mail: bernardine.rees@wales.nhs.uk

Naomi Stocks
Committee Clerk
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

Dear Naomi

P-03-150 NATIONAL CANCER STANDARDS

I write in response to Christine Chapman's letter of 26 January 2010 and address the points raised regarding the cancer standards below.

Supply of Clinical Nurses Specialists:

We have an identified shortage of clinical nurse specialists in a number of areas both within localities and in some Health Board wide provided services. The lack of a specialist nurse impacts upon our ability to meet the cancer standards in the following specialities:

Head and neck cancer; one MDT Health Board-wide
Gynaecological cancer; three MDTs (Ceredigion/Carmarthenshire/Pembrokeshire)
Lung cancer; one MDT (Ceredigion) - a bid for Macmillan funding to support the development of this post is being prepared.
Urological Cancer; one MDT (Pembrokeshire)

The situation is ameliorated somewhat by the development of Generic Oncology Nurses in Pembrokeshire, who provide a cost effective way of delivering a local service to patients with a cancer of low incidence at a county level. We are currently reviewing all our cancer clinical pathways with a view to establishing a single MDT for all tumour sites, but because of the Health Board's geography, each MDT will need to be able to access appropriate specialist nurse support in each county and we will be exploring the potential for the generic oncology nurse model to achieve this with appropriate clinical links and supervision.

Cont'd ...

Pencadiys Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda
Llys Myrddin, Lôn Winch, Hwlfordd,
Sir Benfro, SA61 1SB
Rhif Ffôn: (01437) 771220
Rhif Ffacs: (01437) 771222

Hywel Dda Health Board Headquarters
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Pembrokeshire, SA61 1SB
Tel No: (01437) 771220
Fax No: (01437) 771222

Cadeirydd / Chairman
Mr Christopher Martin
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive
Mr Trevor Purk

Palliative Care

We do not specifically employ benefits advisors and because of the complexity of this area and the tendency for the regulations to change, we ensure that staff are trained and are aware of who they need to involve to ensure patients receive both general and specific advice.

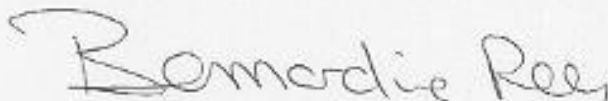
Standard for Rehabilitation of Adult Patients

We have developed and adopted a key worker protocol to ensure they are identified by the MDTs. In terms of the acute pathway, we are confident that we will be able to meet this requirement, more easily so when we have a full compliment of specialist nurses and we have also been working closely with the network to explore how use of the evolving Community resource Teams will allow us to provide a sustainable service to patients post acute phase and who are returning to normality.

With regard to the skills and training staff require as set out in the standard, the Health Board is undertaking the Cancer Network audit of staff to identify gaps in this area. Because the remedial action will require training and education to achieve the appropriate level, we intend to develop this part of the standard as a continuous improvement exercise; we will, however, only know the extent of the gap once the audit has been completed and analysed, which the Network intend to do by the end of June.

If you require any further information, please contact Matthew Willis, Head of Cancer Services (matthew.willis@wales.nhs.uk).

Yours sincerely



BERNARDINE REES OBE
Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health Services



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ein cyf / Our ref: MB/GLP545

Eich cyf / Your ref:

☎: 01248 384910

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Mary Burrows

Ffacs / Fax: 01248 384937

E-bost / Email: mary.burrows@wales.nhs.uk

Dyddiad / Date: 28th February 2011

Dear Ms Chapman

P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

Please find enclosed a response to the Petitions Committee request for information regarding the following:-

- **Whether there is a shortage of Cancer Nurse Specialists, and if so, how this impacts on your ability to meet cancer standards.**

A shortage of speciality trained cancer nurses have been identified through our monitoring and reporting of the National Cancer Standards. Where we have identified gaps staff have been recruited and in so doing we have built in cross cover arrangements as we see a risk with having single handed individuals in such roles.

- **Whether you have staff who are able to give advice on benefits to palliative care patients and whether these staff are fully trained.**

I'm pleased to say we continue to maintain the long and successful history of working with the Welfare Rights Departments and Macmillan Cancer Support. Support and advice is available for palliative and non palliative care patients to access such services. Having said this, it would be worth asking all County Councils about their level of funding as we see variation in how this is approached in local government.

- **Whether you will be in a position to meet the National Standards for Rehabilitation of Adult Cancer Patients, which we understand will come into force in April 2011. If you are not in a position to meet these standards, what are the barriers to full compliance?**

We believe we will be in a position in 2011/12 to meet these standards, the main area will be to agree with cancer users and carers the definition and role of a cancer key worker. In some cases this role is already fulfilled by primary care staff, cancer and palliative care clinical nurse specialists. We believe it is important to utilize, develop and grow skills in existing roles so we address any inequity in provision. We will however formalize the position with key performance indicators to demonstrate value for patients. A Health Board wide plan for rehabilitation has been submitted with timescales and priorities identified.



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Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Should you require any further information, please let me know. Equally if any of the members of the Petitions Committee would wish to discuss any elements of my response, I would be more than happy to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Burrows'.

MARY BURROWS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



GIG
NHS

Bwrdd Iechyd
Cwm Taf
Health Board

Your ref/eich cyf:
Our ref/ein cyf: AW:DE
Date/dyddiad: 28 February 2011
Tel/ffôn: 01443 744803
Fax/ffacs: 01443 744888
Email/ebost: Allison.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk
Dept/adran:

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
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Dear Mrs Chapman

Christine

Re: P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

Further to your letter dated 26th January 2001, regarding the elements of support available to cancer patients, our response is as follows:

Shortage of Clinical Nurse Specialists

Cwm Taf do not have Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) for gynaecology, haematology or skin cancer. All other cancer sites have a single CNS. These individuals are a tremendous asset to the service and are very highly valued by the multi-disciplinary team and patients alike. They make a significant contribution to compliance with cancer standards however, given the small numbers, availability and coverage is inevitably limited which can result in challenges with sustained compliance as follows:

- The standards are quite specific around the attendance at cancer multi-disciplinary meetings. A CNS is listed in standards as a core member therefore if not present this standard cannot be met. Core members have to attend at least 50% of meetings and cover has to be in place so that a total of 90% of meetings have that profession represented. Therefore even when there is a single CNS with annual leave, study leave and potentially sick leave with no cover arrangements this standard cannot be met.
- The standards state that certain cancer specialities have to have a CNS present with a patient when they are informed of a diagnosis of cancer. Again more than one cancer patient can be in a clinic at anyone time therefore a CNS may not be available for every patient. Also with no cover arrangements for a single CNS this means that a CNS may not always be in clinic.

Return Address:

Chief Executive's Office Ynysmeurig House Navigation Park
Abercynon CF45 4SN

As demonstrated above despite having a cohort of CNSs within Cwm Taf the very specific nature of the standards impact on the support offered to cancer patients as CNS time is in our view not always best utilised on direct patient care/support. This also effects our compliance rates against cancer standards. Cwm Taf acknowledge that we have some specific cancer sites without CNS cover, with current financial restraints, we are looking at how we can utilise our existing resources differently. It must also be noted that in certain areas where is no CNS e.g gynaecology there are nurses who have a special interest in cancer who offer support to patients and therefore whilst the functionality might be achieved the strict definitions within the standards means that compliance would not be achieved.

Benefits advice to palliative care patients

Initially Specialist Palliative Nurses can provide advice and can 'signpost' the patient and their families to the relevant agencies. Some patients will also have a social worker who will obviously advise and support the patient in relation to accessing their benefits. In respect of all cancer patients, not just palliative care, advice is also provided by the local Citizens Advice Bureau and we have been made aware that Tenovus have recently appointed 6 Benefits Officers in Wales out of Lottery Funding. Therefore, once more details are available we will be able to signpost all cancer patients to the right person who will be able to help them access the appropriate support.. Signposting for benefits advice will also be one of the responsibilities undertaken by the Key Worker when implemented on 1st April 2011.

Position Report on National Standards for Rehabilitation of Adults Cancer Patients

Cwm Taf has been working in partnership to progress plans to meet the above standards. This will ensure there is equity and consistency in meeting these standards across South East Wales. A joint Action Plan between all Health Boards in South East Wales and Velindre Trust has been developed and submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). The implementation of this Plan is being monitored by a Co-ordinating group with appropriate representation for each of the Health Boards as well as Velindre.

A full resource mapping exercise to meet the new full standards has yet to be completed as the end implementation date is not until 2015. However, the first target to be met is the implementation of the Key Worker by 1st April 2011. A joint implementation plan for the Key Worker has been developed which will ensure a holistic and consistent approach both across primary and secondary care as well as across neighbouring Health Boards and Velindre. It is felt that this is necessary as many patients access services across our organisations.

Cwm Taf is working towards meeting the target for the Key Worker however it must be noted that when a patient is being treated within secondary care in the majority of cases the most appropriate professional to be their Key Worker will be the CNS. As mentioned above this will be difficult where we do not have a CNS for a cancer site. In these instances we will of course identify an alternative member of the multi-disciplinary team.

I can reassure you that Cwm Taf does have a work programme in place so that we will be compliant with the minimum requirement to have a key worker in place for all newly diagnosed cancer patients for each stage of the patient journey.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison Williams', with a period at the end.

Allison Williams
Chief Executive

2. P-03-156 Dal anadl wrth gysgu

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Dylai Cymru gael polisi effeithiol, cydlynol ac sydd wedi'i gyllido'n dda ar gyfer pob claf sydd ag anhwylder cysgu. Byddai hyn yn cynnwys darparu peiriannau sy'n Pwyso'n Barhaus ac yn Gadarnhaol ar y Sianel Aer (CPAP) ar gyfer dioddefwyr sydd wedi cael diagnosis o Ddal Anadl wrth Gysgu Rhwystrol (OSA).

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-156.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Welsh Sleep Apnoea Society

Nifer y llofnodion: 1 sefydliad

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 16 Hydref 2008, 6 Tachwedd 2008, 13 Ionawr 2009, 2 Mawrth 2009, 31 Mawrth 2009, 24 Tachwedd 2009, 19 Ionawr 2010, 23 Mawrth, 11 Mai a 12 Hydref 2010.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r deisebwyr. Maent wedi'u cynnwys isod.

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

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

Our ref: EH/03431/10

Your ref: P-03-156

Christine Chapman AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk



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Welsh Assembly Government

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20 October 2010

Dear Christine

Thank you for your letter of 15 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee about sleep apnoea services.

The National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) required Local Health Boards (LHBs) to submit their audit returns detailing compliance against the Service Development and Commissioning Directives for Respiratory Conditions by 30 September.

NLIAH are currently analysing and compiling the audit data on an individual LHB and all-Wales basis and the outcome of audit compliance will be published in early November.

03-07-2011 Welsh Sleep Apnoea Society

Rhodri

I have now had a chance to look through the papers sent to me and would make the following comments in relation to the Aneurin Bevan Trust:

The overall average for the process from GP referral to commencing treatment for CPAP in South Gwent is in excess of **2 years** and the comments relating to diagnostic polysomnography services should not really have an impact as this is not a routine procedure as it affects on average 1 or 2 patients per month

The work undertaken to improve the pathway in South Gwent and reduce the differential waiting times between hospitals has 'gone quiet' and it is believed that there should be some deadline given for completion. Deliberations on sharing workloads between Nevill Hall and St Woolos, is ongoing but is unfortunately proceeding at a slow pace. The comments that the proposed pathway will enable shorter waiting times to essential diagnostic physiological tests prior to the Consultant appointment and the comment that during this period the patient will be under the care of a specialist nurse is not true, unfortunately.

I am not in a position to clarify summaries from other Local Health Boards unfortunately, but if they mirror the situation in Gwent, it does make one wonder on their total accuracy.

I trust these comments are of value to you. With all best wishes

Angela

Angela J Parry, MBE
Honorary Secretary, Welsh Sleep Apnoea Society

3. P-03-197 Achub y Vulcan

Geiriad y ddeiseb

'Mae Gwesty'r Vulcan yn Stryd Adam, a adeiladwyd yn 1853, yn un o dafarndai hynaf Caerdydd. Trefnwyd iddo gael ei ddymchwel ym mis Mehefin 2009 i wneud lle i faes parcio aml-lawr a fflatiau. Helpwch ni i wneud i'r datblygwyr gynnwys y Vulcan yn eu dyluniadau a rhoi stop ar y fandaliaeth ddianghenraid hon o ddiwylliant a hanes Caerdydd.

Mae sôn am symud y dafarn i Amgueddfa Sain Ffagan ond ni ddylai'r Vulcan fod mewn amgueddfa; dylai fod lle y bu am 155 blynedd – yng nghanol Caerdydd.

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn credu bod mwy o werth i Gaerdydd o gael Gwesty'r Vulcan yn sefyll nag o'i gael wedi'i ddymchwel, ac mae mwy o werth iddo o'i gael yn sefyll lle y mae nag o'i gael mewn amgueddfa. Rydym yn annog y datblygwyr i barchu diwylliant a hanes Caerdydd a diogelu'r adeilad hanesyddol hwn ar ei safle presennol.

Rydym hefyd yn annog Cyngor Caerdydd a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddefnyddio eu holl rym i sicrhau bod y Vulcan yn aros lle y mae – yng nghanol Caerdydd.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-197.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Rachel Thomas

Nifer y llofnodion: 5,000

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 02 Mawrth, 17 Mawrth, 5 Mai, 19 Mai, 9 Mehefin, 7 Gorffennaf, 22 Medi 2009, 15 Mehefin 2010 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03 -197
Ein cyf/Our ref SFAFJ/0029/10

Christine Chapman
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

8 March 2011

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter of 26 January about progress with a number of matters arising out of the Committee's inquiry into the *Save the Vulcan* petition.

The proposed Wales and England Heritage Protection Bill has not been included within the UK Government's current legislative programme and there is currently no Bill in prospect. In meetings with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport I have confirmed the Welsh Assembly Government's support for the Bill and pressed for its introduction at the first available opportunity.

Subject to the wishes of the new Government, we propose to carry out a consultation on new listing criteria and guidance on local list designation early in the next session of the National Assembly. Work on local listing is being taken forward in liaison with English Heritage, which is also aiming to introduce guidance in this area, and which published its own consultation document last month. As work on this is taken forward over coming months our own proposals will take account of the exercise in England and will also include Cadw's programme of urban characterisation studies to identify and promote the distinctive and diverse character of Wales' historic built environment.

Discussions between my officials in Cadw and those within the Welsh Assembly Government's Planning Division about measures to protect locally important buildings are continuing and will be an issue to be considered by incoming Ministers.

Sincerely
Alun Ffred Jones

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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4. P-3-205 Cadwch Farchnad Da Byw y Fenni

Geiriad y ddeiseb

"Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i gadw cymeriad hanesyddol y Fenni fel tref farchnad drwy beidio â diddymu na diwygio Deddfau Gwelliannau i'r Fenni 1854 i 1871, gan felly gadw'r holl fanteision economaidd, cymdeithasol a diwylliannol sydd ynghlwm â bod yn dref farchnad."

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-205.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Barry Greenwood

Nifer y llofnodion: 4,757

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 19 Mai 2009, 9 Mehefin 2009, 23 Mehefin 2009, 6 Hydref 2009, 20 Hydref, 24 Tachwedd 2009 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-03-205
Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/CS/0106/11

Christine Chapman AM
Chair Petitions' Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF991NA

7 March 2011

P-03-205 KEEP ABERGAVENNY LIVESTOCK MARKET

As you know the duty on Monmouthshire County Council to preserve a livestock market within the boundaries of that town was established by the Abergavenny Improvement Acts 1854 to 1871. This duty to hold a livestock market within a specified area is unique to Monmouthshire and does not apply within any other Welsh local authority.

I have made it known that I have no view as to whether there should be a livestock market in Abergavenny. Whether or not there is a livestock market in Abergavenny, or anywhere else in the area covered by Monmouthshire County Council, is properly a matter for that Council. Monmouthshire County Council has made it clear that it is the will of the Council to redevelop this area within Abergavenny and to establish an alternative livestock market on a new site.

There is no formal application process for local authorities to follow to request the repeal of Acts of Parliament, but I have discussed this issue with Councillor Fox, leader of Monmouthshire Council. I subsequently wrote to him to inform him that I would consider repealing the Acts but only following a consultation with key stakeholders. That consultation would only concern the repeal of the Acts and not the redevelopment of the site which is not a matter for me. That consultation is yet to take place.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AM/AC

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

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5. P-03-211 Cyfleusterau gofal i ddioddefwyr demensia

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Mae'r GMB - Undeb Cenedlaethol Prydain yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sicrhau bod darpariaeth briodol a digonol o ofal arbenigol ar gael ar gyfer pobl â demensia/henoed bregus eu meddwl a darpariaeth briodol a digonol o ganolfannau/cartrefi ar gael ledled Cymru.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-211.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Undeb GMB

Nifer y llofnodion: 13

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 5 Mai 2009 a 15 Mehefin, 13 Gorffennaf, 30 Tachwedd 2010 a 08 Chwefror 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

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

Our ref: EH/00545/11

Your ref:

Christine Chapman AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
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25 February 2011

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 February about Petition P-03-211 Provision of Dementia Care Homes and Centre.

The commissioning of care home places is the responsibility of the local authorities, and in August 2010 I issued guidance to assist authorities to undertake this.

The money I announced last year of £1.5 million is to extend and develop dementia care services, in particular to support health and social services to deliver the dementia action plan developed by a group of health professionals and experts.

The money allocated is broken down as follows:

- £1million per annum of this new funding is to establish additional dedicated dementia resources within Older People Community Mental Health Teams and £0.5 million to develop new Young Onset Dementia services across Wales.

I also made an additional £400k available over this and the next financial year to improve information and training on dementia. In addition, a dedicated helpline and website has been launched to offer emotional support and advice to anyone who has been diagnosed with dementia or for relatives and carers of people with dementia.

6. P-03-219 Fferyllfeydd yn y Barri

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i achub ein fferyllfeydd stryd fawr lleol. Ein bwriad, wrth gyflwyno'r ddeiseb hon, yw dangos anghysonderau cyfredol y system bresennol o 'gymdogaethau' fel ag y maent mewn perthynas ag ail-leoli fferyllfeydd yng Nghymru.

Ni chaniateir i unrhyw fferyllfa ail-leoli ar raddfa fach fel y diffinnir yn Rheoliadau Fferyllfeydd 1992 oni bai ei bod o fewn y gymdogaeth a ddiffinnir.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-219.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Aneurin Evans Chemists Ltd. a Judith Evans Pharmacies

Nifer y llofnodion: 3,000+

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 23 Mehefin, 6 Hydref, 8 Rhagfyr 2009, 1 Chwefror, 23 Mawrth, 27 Ebrill 2010 a 08 Chwefror 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

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

Our ref: EH/00546/11

Your ref: P-03-219

Christine Chapman AM

Chair - Petitions Committee

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25 February 2011

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 February about Petition P-03-219 Pharmacies in Barry.

The Task and Finish Group to review the NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulations has the following Terms of Reference:

- To consider the policy on Control of Entry, and
- To make recommendations for changes to legislation, if appropriate, to bring about a long term, cost-effective and sustainable system which will afford patients appropriate access to pharmaceutical services.

The Task and Finish Group has developed its initial findings and is currently discussing the implications of these with wider stakeholders before reporting back to me by the end of March 2011.

7. P-03-239 Dysgu Gydol Oes ym Mhrifysgolion Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ofyn bod Prifysgolion Cymru yn darparu rhaglen dysgu gydol oes sy'n llawn ac yn amrywiol drwy wneud hyn yn amod ar unrhyw arian cyhoeddus y maent yn ei dderbyn.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-239.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Nick Jones

Nifer y llofnodion: 10 (Hefyd, casglodd y deisebydd dros 3000 o lofnodion ar gyfer deiseb gysylltiedig â hi).

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 22 Medi, 10 Tachwedd 2009, 12 Hydref 2010 a 08 Chwefror 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.

Leighton Andrews AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg & Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-239
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/00411/11

Christine Chapman AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

6 March 2011

Dear Chris,

P-03-239 LIFELONG LEARNING AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

Thank you for your letter of 10 February concerning the above petition.

I understand that this petition was instigated by Cardiff University's decision in 2009 to withdraw certain courses from its Lifelong Learning portfolio and that my predecessor wrote to you on 14th October 2009 with her response to the original petition.

I note that you have been in touch with both the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and Higher Education Wales (HEW) and that the correspondent acknowledges the wider definition of lifelong learning as commonly used in their comprehensive responses to the Committee.

I also note that the correspondent alleges that HEFCW and HEW do not place enough emphasis on the work that university lifelong learning departments carry out. I am unable to comment on HEW's priorities on this matter and would suggest that perhaps he might like to contact them direct to discuss this further.

However, as you are aware, through *One Wales*, the Welsh Assembly Government has made clear its commitment to widening participation in education; and to working with the higher education sector to maximise the economic, social and cultural impact of higher education institutions both on learners and the wider community. In line with the far reaching changes identified by *For our Future*, this will require higher education institutions to work together to make the most of the resources at their disposal, and create a higher education system where institutions together support a wide range of programmes across the arts / humanities and STEM spectrum, while enabling specialisation in areas where Wales has strengths. I must emphasise that the importance of maintaining diversity of provision in each region is at the heart of the regional agenda.

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CF99 1NA

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

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8129
Correspondence.Leighton.Andrews@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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HEFCW remains strongly committed to supporting part-time higher education, particularly in the context of the significance attached to developing more opportunities for part-time study in *For our Future, The 21st Century Strategy and Plan for Wales*.

The regional approach seeks to:


- eliminate wasteful local competition and duplication
- co-ordinate delivery of HE programmes relevant to local need and demand
- utilise FE and workplace venues for more locally accessible HE
- better planning of progression to HE from schools, FE and the workplace
- enable providers to focus on building on their strengths while collaboration ensures provision meets need.

I expect higher education in Wales to be embedded more inherently within our wider framework for lifelong learning. This will include more systematic linkage to FE and schools through being part of the Transformation agenda. I expect this to be achieved in combination with other actions, such as financial support for students, the establishment of Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to grow Welsh medium higher education, programme design and learning support.

By requiring such a dimension to planning and delivery, we will ensure that, through collaboration, local and regional needs and priorities are better identified and met across Wales. Through this approach we aim to ensure more points of access to HE are created locally, and that clearer progression pathways to higher education are in place from school, community, workplace, and further education.

That regional dimension will be strengthened by participation of higher education providers in their local 14-19 Learning Pathway planning arrangements and in the discussions on changes to institutional and organisational changes that are flowing from the Transformation Framework for post-16 providers in Wales.

I hope that this has addressed the issues you have raised.

Your sincerely


Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning

8. P-03-254 Sylwadau trydydd parti mewn cyfarfodydd cynllunio

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno hawliau i drydydd parti lefaru mewn cyfarfodydd Awdurdodau Cynllunio Lleol drwy Gymru.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-254.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan : Y Cynghorydd Nic Hodges

Nifer y llofnodion: 94

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 24 Tachwedd 2009 a 19 Ionawr, 23 Mawrth, 29 Mehefin, 28 Medi 2010 a 08 Chwefror 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.

Jane Davidson AC/AM

**Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-254
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/00302/11

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 February 2011

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your letter of 10 January, concerning petition P-03-254, to introduce third party speaking rights at planning committees. It may be helpful if I set out the context of third party representations in the planning decision-making process.

You will recall from my letter of February 2010 that the power to introduce third party speaking rights at planning committee already exists, and the decision whether or not to introduce these rights already lies with local planning authorities. I am aware that many authorities in Wales already have procedures in place to allow third parties to address committee.

However, the operation of a committee is a matter for the authority's standing orders, and the authority must balance the need to involve communities in decisions which affect them, and the obligation to determine the significant number of planning applications received each month, within statutory time periods.

The workload of a planning committee is a matter for each authority in the first instance. Clearly, the workload involved in committee determination of all planning applications received by a planning authority would be prohibitive, and so all Welsh planning authorities have a scheme in place to delegate minor or non-controversial applications to officers for determination. There is no guideline for the number of applications to be delegated to officers, but Welsh planning authorities average between 80 and 90%.

This scheme of delegation frees up a planning committee to determine applications that it considers merit full consideration by the Committee members. However, committee time is still at a premium, and any delays to the processing of a planning application as a result of lack of committee time can leave a local planning authority vulnerable to appeals on the ground of non-determination. As a result, time spent on each planning application put before a committee must be carefully managed, including the opportunity for third parties to address committee.

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)
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Planning committees are already obliged to take any comments received into consideration before deciding whether or not to approve a particular planning application.

However, given that it is for local planning authorities to establish their own management processes through their standing orders, there is currently no intention to introduce a statutory right for third parties to address planning committees.

The Assembly Government's Planning Improvement Programme is already underway and is set out in its response to the recommendations in "Study to Examine the Planning Application Process in Wales" (June 2010), which can be accessed through the following web-link -

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/planningappprocess/papers/planningappstudy/?lang=en>

Recommendation 7 proposes a review of statutory and non-statutory consultees in the planning application process. The first stage of the review is the creation of an information report providing a current list of nationally defined consultees. The consultation on this information report closed on the 26 November 2010 with a final version anticipated to be published shortly. The final information report will be used to inform the second stage of the review, which will examine the role and operation of statutory and non-statutory consultees. This work is currently underway with a consultation paper anticipated during this summer.

Recommendation 9 relates to the production of a guide for Local Planning Authorities on the organisation of planning committees. This will be undertaken as part of a review of current development management policy and guidance. Policy issues to encourage a more positive enabling development management framework and culture will be addressed as part of a future update of 'Planning Policy Wales'.

New best practice guidance will also be created to take account of changes taken forward by the 'Planning Improvement Programme'. This will be informed by the consultation undertaken previously on draft Technical Advice Note 17 "Planning and Managing Development".

Both amendments to Planning Policy Wales and the proposed best practice guidance will be subject to consultation with stakeholders, including the Welsh Local Government Association, and it is anticipated that this will be completed during 2011/12.

Yours,


Jane Davidson AM

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

9. P-03-263 Rhestru Parc y Strade

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth i roi statws rhestredig i Barc y Strade, er mwyn diogelu treftadaeth y maes rygbi byd enwog a'r eicon diwylliannol hwn i bobl Cymru.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-263.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Mr V Jones

Nifer y llofnodion: 4383

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 11 Mai, 15 Mehefin, 28 Medi, 16 Tachwedd, 30 Tachwedd 2010 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd , Cynaliadwyedd a thai a chymdeithas cyn chwaraewyr Llanelli. Maent wedi'u cynnwys isod.

Jane Davidson AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-03-263
Ein cyf/Our ref: JD/00201/11

Christine Chapman AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 February 2011

Dear Chris,

I refer to your letter of 26 January in which you asked me for confirmation of and the reasons for my decision not to call in an application for the approval of reserved matters associated with residential development at Stradey Park, Llanelli.

Following the original decision to call in the application, Taylor Wimpey Homes (the applicant) sent the Welsh Ministers a letter under the judicial review pre-action protocol raising a range of legal issues relating to the call-in decision. My officials obtained advice from the Assembly Government's Legal Services Division and from Counsel to the effect that the appropriate course of action was to withdraw the call in direction and consider in detail the applicant's letter rather than let matters proceed to the High Court.

Further advice received from Counsel was unequivocal – the calling in of the application because of flooding issues would be regarded as unlawful by the Courts, which would take the view that the consideration of flooding issues related to the principle of development, case law having been established that the principle of development cannot be revisited in a reserved matters application.

Counsel also advised that there were no other issues arising from the application that could be regarded as being of more than local importance, which would have justified calling it in.

On the basis of Counsel's clear advice, I did not call in the application.

Yours

Jane Davidson AM

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

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LLANELLI R.F.C.

Scarlets Former Players Association

Headquarters: Parc y Scarlets, Pemberton, Llanelli SA14 9UZ
Telephone: 01554 783900



Chairman:
Terry Davies

President:
Derek Quinnell

Secretary:
Doug Williams

Christine Chapman, AM,
Chair Petitions Committee,
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,
Bae Caerdydd,
Caerdydd, CF99 1NA.

28th February, 2011.

Dear Madam,

Stradey Parc, Llanelli.

In reply to your letter of 24th January, 2011, and our conversations with your staff we comment as follows.

Agreement with Taylor Wimpey.

1. Street Naming - 10 streets with names of famous players.
2. Avenue of Trees and Shrubs from Countries that have played at Stradey Parc.
3. Landscaped culvert with bridge named after Albert Jenkins.
4. Memorial incorporating the emblems of Countries that have played at Stradey Parc. (To date we have £12,000 in trust towards our estimated costs of £25, - 30,000.)

Agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council.

1. Siting of the Scarlets old goal posts. Both have been renovated. One has already been erected on a roundabout approaching the prestigious Parc y Scarlets. The second location has yet to be agreed upon. There are competitive proposals.

Blue plaques on streets.

e.g. Derwent Street (within the shadows of Scarlets old east end goal post)

produced: Four Rugby Internationals.
 One Rugby League International.
 One Soccer International.
 One Boxing Champion.

Llanelli House (Located in the Town Centre).

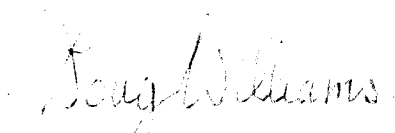
1. Room dedicated to displays of ex-players personal memorabilia.
(Changed every 2 - 3 months).
- 2, Year on Year Book of all ex Llanelli Players.
- 3 History of Llanelli RFC.
4. Additional Set of Goal Posts adjacent to Llanelli House.

Memorabilia. Our Committee have produced “Cofio Parc-y-Strade” Plates.
Should you have a suitable commemorative display area we would be
delighted to send you one.

Effectively we have a virtual Llanelli Heritage Trail, starting with named
streets and memorials, along the avenue of Trees and Shrubs; over the
Albert Jenkins Bridge into Derwent Street, Llanelli House and finally onto
the new prestigious Parc-y-Scarlets.

Please let us know if you require additional information.

Yours faithfully,



D. Williams.

Encs. Layout of Stradey Parc, Plate of “Cofio Parc-y-Strade.



NAMED STREETS

LANE

MEMORIALS IN CONCRETE AREAS SURROUND

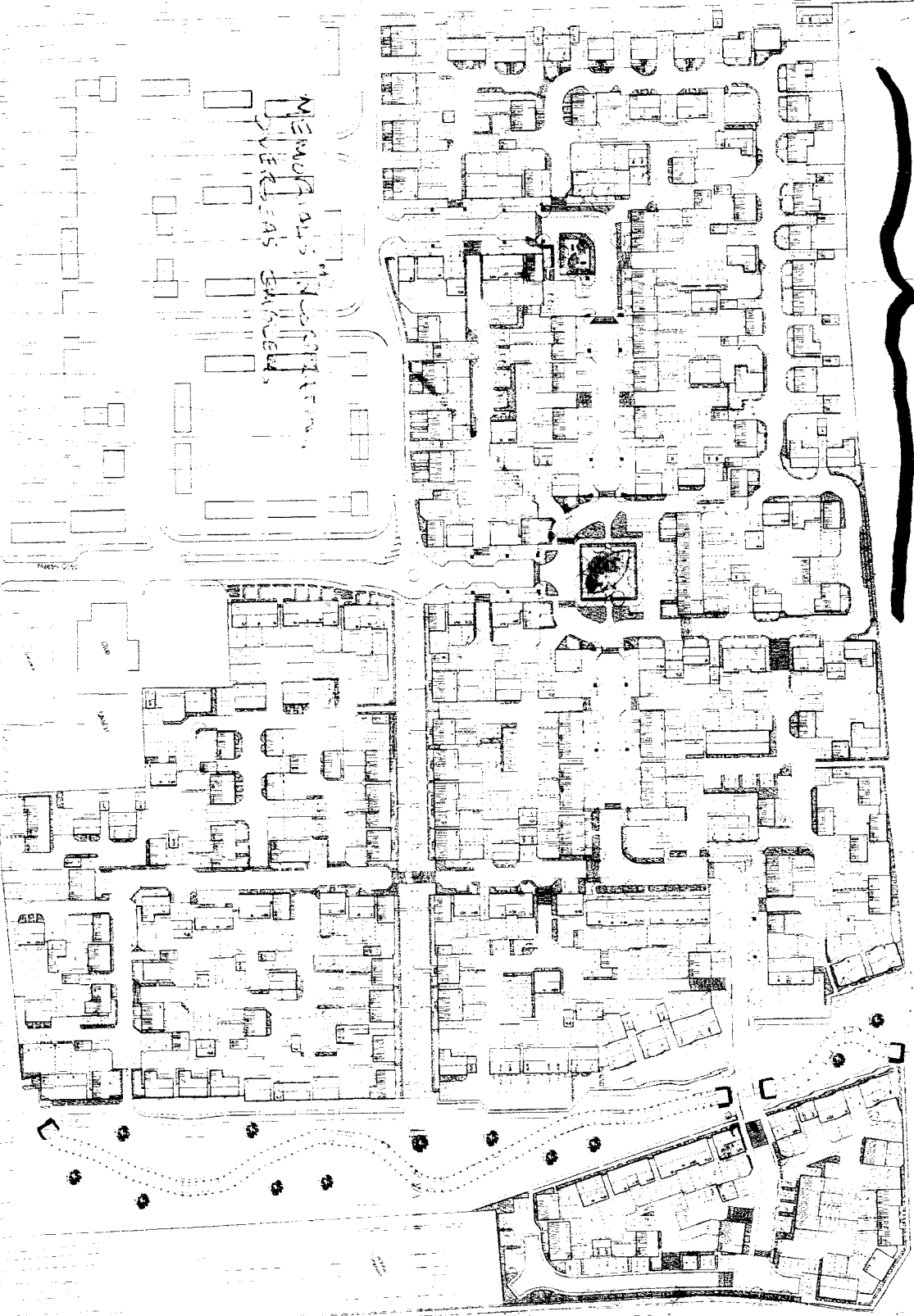
MEMORIALS IN CONCRETE AREAS SURROUND

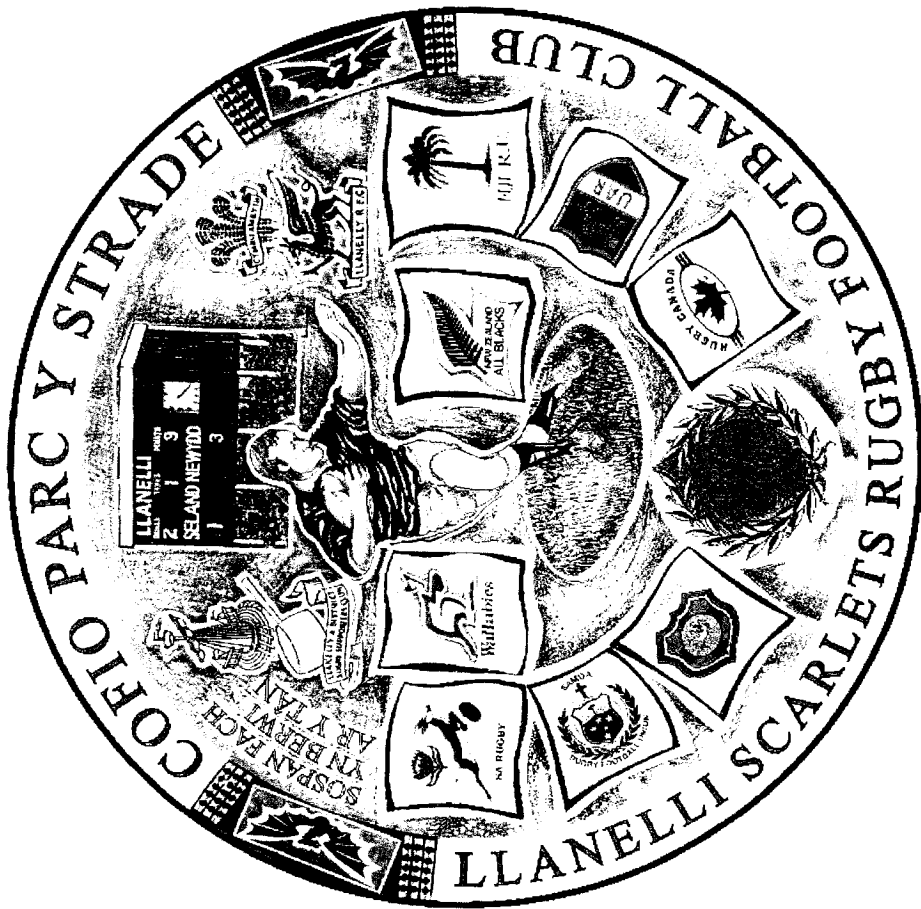
ADDITIONAL TERRAIN

SCALE OF ACCOMMODATION

TYPE	NO.	AREA (sq. m)	TOTAL
FLAT	100	1000	1000
STUDIO	50	500	500
OFFICE	20	200	200
RETAIL	10	100	100
COMMERCIAL	5	50	50
OTHER	5	50	50
TOTAL	190	1900	1900

NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq. m)
1	FLAT	1000
2	STUDIO	500
3	OFFICE	200
4	RETAIL	100
5	COMMERCIAL	50
6	OTHER	50
TOTAL	1900	1900





cypress **COTIO** series
 cyrillan *Cyffwrdd* design

Mae'r plât yma yn dyfynweddig iac er cofia am broffesiwn y gêm rygbi yn Llanelli. Yn ogystal mae'n gyflwynedig i'r cennogwyr seleg, seledau y pwyllgor ar hyd y blynyddoedd, y gwirfoddwyr niferus ac wrth gwrs y chwaraewyr a dddech a chynnal o'r gîd a' bwlchod i Llanelli a Chymru. John H Rogers, ddyddianer o Llanelli dddech ar gêm gynnal i dde y Sospan. Dyddodd yntau y gêm yn Ysgol Rygbi yn ystod 1860au. Fe drefnodd yn 1872 y gêm gynnal ened'w chwarae yn Llanelli a honno yn 'People's Park'. Y gêm gynnal i'r chymal ym Mharc y Strade oedd ar yr 20fed o Fedi 1878. Spwiser Strade, C.W. Mansel Lewis, wnaeth gartolau i'r maes gael ei ddolnyddio ar gyfer rygbi ac ei oeddi hwyddd gynnal y chwib. Trobwynt yn hanes y chwib oedd prynu y cas oddi wrth Ystad y Strade yn y 1850au. Y gêm enwocaf oedd honno pan gurodd y Sgarlets Crysau Duon Selanid Newydd yn 1972. O ganlyniad i'r gêm fynd yn broffesiynol ac all dreinu y gêm yng Nghymru mae Sgarlets Llanelli wedi profi llywyddiant nodedig yng nghystaddeithau Henneken a chyngrair Magners. Bydd stadwm newydd Sgarlets Llanelli yn eiddo bwlchod Parc y Strade a bydd enw 'im y Sospan yn parhau i fod gyda'r amlycaf ble bynnag y chwarae'r y gêm. Mae'r bwlchod ymau ar y plât yn dynodi y prif wledydd wnaeth chwarae yn erbyn y twn canol ar Banc y Strade.

This plate is dedicated to the memory of pioneers of the Llanelli R.F.C. and to all the faithful supporters, committee men, volunteers and not least the players who have brought such honour and glory to Llanelli and Wales to become one of the most famous rugby clubs in the world. John H. Rogers, a Llanelli industrialist was the main instigator in bringing rugby football to the town for he had learned the game while a pupil at Rugby School in the 1860's. In 1872 he gathered a few friends together for a kick about and practice at People's Park near the Town Hall. The opening game at Strade was on the 20th Sept. 1878, when Mr C.W. Mansel Lewis, the squire of Strade, consented to become the president and allowed the ground to be used for rugby games. A landmark in the history of the Club was the purchase of the ground from the Strade Estate in the 1850's. There have been so many memorable games at Strade but the victory over the New Zealand All Blacks in 1972 must rank as the most outstanding achievement in the Clubs centenary year. Following the advent of professionalism and the reorganisation of Welsh Rugby, Llanelli Scarlets has achieved notable success in both the Henneken Cup and the Magners Celtic League. The legacy of Strade Park will live on in the new stadium that will be the future home of the Llanelli Scarlets, a name that will be synonymous with rugby all over the world. The badges on the plate represent matches against major overseas touring sides to date.

Rhif Cyfngedig Rhif. Limited Edition
 No.

10. P-03-275 A ddylai Cymru ddewis Uganda yn bartner

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ystyried record hawliau dynol y gwledydd y mae'n rhoi cymorth iddynt.

A ddylai Cymru fod wedi sefydlu partneriaeth â rhanbarth yn Uganda pan fo llywodraeth y wlad honno'n trafod a ddylai bod yn hoyw fod yn drosedd y gellir ei chosbi drwy'r gosb eithaf? Er ei bod yn dda gweld Cymru'n cefnogi gwledydd datblygol yn yr argyfwng byd-eang, ni ddylai Cymru roi cymorth i genedl sydd hyd yn oed yn ystyried ei gwneud yn anghyfreithlon i fod yn hoyw ar sail gwarchod gwerthoedd teuluol a diwylliant. Does bosib bod y gwerthoedd hyn yn rhai gwrthun i bobl y DU a Chymru, ac y byddai'n fwy clodwiw dewis rhanbarth neu genedl sydd â gwerthoedd cyffredin sy'n haeddu ein cymorth.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-275.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Alan Austin

Nifer y llofnodion: 20

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 11 Ionawr a 08 Chwefror 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y deisebwyr ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.

Response from the petitioner 03-02-2011

With regard to the petition I am afraid I just do not have the time or strength to pursue the issue with the effort it deserves. I did manage to read the 1st Minister's response after a week or so and in brief just wish to say that whilst I cannot but agree to all the points he made as it is undeniably a regional issue, the welfare of the locals is still a global concern etc I still feel to be frank, ashamed that Wales would a) do any business with such a nation and let's face it, this is also about making arrangement for growth and business for both parties, and b) argue that there ARE plenty of other regions and nations with just as much need but sharing more with our moral values than the rulers both national and regional in Uganda. Hence I am ashamed that the Welsh Assembly even considered to take this route so naively when much of the world is aware of the nature of the Ugandan authorities. Even to the extent that the BBC recently screened a documentary on this very issue outlining that Uganda is possibly the worst place in the world for gay people to reside. As such it could prove even more embarrassing now that the documentary has been aired.

Finally I would add that is this partnership with the region in Uganda and Wales still goes ahead I implore that part of the arrangement is for Wales representatives from W.A.G. to petition leaders there with regard to human rights and try to make a change. It's the very least we should attempt if we are to get into bed with such people.

Thank you and once again I apologise for my lack of contact and diminished role.

Alan Austin

11. P-03-279 Achubwch Brifysgolion Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ariannu prifysgolion yng Nghymru yn llawn. Rydym hefyd yn galw am y canlynol:

- - nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru'n dilyn esiampl Lloegr drwy dorri'r cyllid ar gyfer prifysgolion yn y llythyr cylch gwaith a anfonir ym mis Mawrth at Gyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru
- - ymrwymiad wedi'i amserlennu gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gau'r bwch mewn buddsoddiad rhwng y sectorau prifysgol yng Nghymru a Lloegr
- - bod Cymru yn dilyn esiampl Ffrainc, yr Almaen a'r Unol Daleithiau, sydd wedi dewis buddsoddi'n helaeth yn eu prifysgolion fel strategaeth allweddol ar gyfer adfer yr economi yn dilyn y dirwasgiad.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-279.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Undeb y Prifysgolion a'r Colegau

Nifer y llofnodion: 907

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 23 Mawrth 2010, 13 Gorffennaf, 30 Tachwedd 2010 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y deisebwyr ac mae wedi'i chynnwys isod.



Christine Chapman AM

Chair petitions committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff CF99 1NA

2 March 2011

Dear Christine

Re: P-03-279

Thank you for your letter dated 26 January 2011 asking for our response to the statement by the minister with responsibility for higher education. My colleague who was responsible for initiating this campaign has fallen ill and is unable to respond in detail.

Clearly the funding of higher education remains a concern for UCU and we would urge all Assembly Members to take the opportunity of meeting with their constituents in the run up to the Assembly elections and discuss their genuine concerns about the real impact of the budget allocations and the regional planning of HE.

I have no doubt that UCU will continue to debate funding of HE with the Assembly government post May and look forward to continuing our constructive engagement.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Phelan

Wales Official

12. P-03-283 Codi tâl gan y GIG i drin cleifion a'u cludo i'r ysbyty mewn achosion sy'n ymwneud ag alcohol

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ystyried codi tâl am drin cleifion a'u cludo i'r ysbyty os yw'r achosion hynny yn ymwneud ag alcohol, ac os mai bai'r unigolyn neu'r unigolion dan sylw yn llwyr yw'r digwyddiad. Gobeithiwn y bydd y costau hyn yn help i leihau nifer y galwadau a thriniaethau y bydd gofyn i'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol eu gwneud, ac o ganlyniad yn lleihau'r achosion o drais corfforol a geiriol yn erbyn staff y GIG.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-283.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Derek Wynne Rees

Nifer y llofnodion: 116

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 27 Ebrill, 11 Mai a 16 Tachwedd 2010.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol, Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain yng Nghymru, Cymdeithas Parafeddygon Prydain, Cymdeithas Prif Swyddogion yr Heddlu, Bwrdd y Cynghorau Iechyd Cymuned yng Nghymru a Chydffederasiwn y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol. Maent wedi'u cynnwys isod.



Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol
Cymru
Royal College of Nursing
Wales

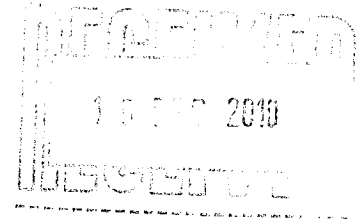
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Tina Donnelly TD, DL, MSc (ECON), BSc
(Hons), RGN, RM, RNT, RCNT, Dip N,
PGCE
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2 December 2010

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA



Dear Christine

P-03-283 NHS Charging for Alcohol Related Incidents

Thank you for your letter dated 22 November 2010.

The Royal College of Nursing remains very concerned with the high level of alcohol misuse. I have attached a briefing paper which the RCN in Wales published in the Autumn of last year which still remains an excellent summary of some of the actions we feel are needed to tackle the issues.

With regard to the specific points raised in your letter, the Royal College of Nursing believes that NHS services should be provided free at the point of delivery.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

TINA DONNELLY
DIRECTOR, RCN WALES

Enc

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Mae'r Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol yn Goleg Brenhinol a sefydlwyd drwy Siarter Frenhinol ac Undeb Llafur Cofrestr Arbennig a sefydlwyd o dan Ddeddf Undebau Llafur a Chysylltiadau Llafur (Cydgrynhoi) 1992. The RCN is a Royal College set up by Royal Charter and a Special Register Trade Union established under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Mae'r RCN yn cynrychioli nyrsys a nyrsio, gan hyrwyddo rhagoriaeth mewn arfer a llunio polisiau iechyd

The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

**BUDDSODDWYR
MEWN POBL**

Alcohol Misuse

Get it right - PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE

In April 2009 "A profile of alcohol and health in Wales" was published by the Wales Centre for Health. Key findings included that 1,000 people die from causes attributed to alcohol in Wales each year, with alcohol being a factor in more than four per cent of male deaths.

It also reveals that people living in deprived areas of Wales are three times more likely to die of a cause related to alcohol than those living in the least deprived areas. Figures released in May 2008 showed that 36% of adults reported drinking more than the daily guidelines on alcohol on at least one day in the past week, including 20% reporting binge drinking. Over 50% of road traffic accidents are alcohol related. An estimated 1 in 3 attendees at emergency care departments have consumed alcohol and this rises to 2 in 3 after midnight. 15 per cent of all hospital admissions are due to alcohol intoxication and every year 30,000 hospital bed days are alcohol related.

The Welsh Assembly Government has launched Working Together to reduce harm – the strategy for substance misuse 2008-2018. The RCN fully supports the implementation of the accompanying action plan including the steps to improve health services for those with alcohol problems and improve public education.

In April an RCN commissioned project into the effectiveness of nursing services for people with alcohol problems reported. Services in Cardiff, Liverpool, Belfast, Edinburgh and London were examined. All the projects were evaluated successfully with a high number of followed up referrals to specialised services and lower alcohol consumption from those advised.

In London there was a £1,500 saving to the Trust for each patient screened by Band 7 Alcohol Nurse Specialist and in Belfast there was a reduction of 84 bed days per month which represents a saving of around £20,000.

RCN Wales also believes the Welsh Assembly Government should seek the powers to reduce licensing hours, regulate printed advertising material and control the accessibility of alcohol itself.

KEY POLICY ACTIONS

- Pre-registration nurse education should reflect the issue of alcohol misuse.
- The Welsh Assembly Government should ensure the Substance Misuse Plan is fully implemented.
- The Welsh Assembly Government should seek the powers to reduce licensing hours, regulate printed advertising material and control the accessibility of alcohol itself.
- The Welsh Assembly Government should ensure there is a statutory requirement to cover issues of alcohol misuse within the national curriculum. Alcohol misuse services for adolescents should be strengthened.
- There should be a full-time alcohol liaison nurse available in every emergency care department.

get it
right

cymryd y
camau
cywir

British Medical Association
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Cymru Wales National Office

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Ms Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref: P-03-283

6 December 2010

Dear *Christine*

P-03-283 NHS Charging for Alcohol related Incidents

Thank you for your letter dated 22 November 2010 regarding petition P-03-283.

I can confirm that although BMA Cymru Wales does support the need to reduce the inappropriate use of health facilities, we would not support the introduction of charges where the cause of treatment is determined to be alcohol related – BMA Cymru Wales believe that this is neither appropriate nor viable.

Fundamentally, we believe that NHS services should not discriminate against people – even if those individuals have contributed to their own illness or injury. This could be applied to a variety of other 'life-style choices' which likewise costs the NHS billions of pounds every year. Examples include smoking, eating fatty foods, not taking regular exercise, drug and substance abuse – and even things like sunbathing and participation in dangerous sports.

Considering the introduction of such charges is, in our view, a dangerous route to go down and is in direct conflict with the founding principles of the National Health Service – universal, free at the point of delivery, and based on clinical need, not ability to pay.

The general rule of thumb for BMA Cymru Wales, in representing the medical profession, is that we do not support measures which penalise patients as it could damage the doctor-patient relationship and make patients avoid seeing a doctor when they are in need.

We believe that the proposed policy would be open to dangerous varying levels of interpretation; it would be almost impossible to implement in practice and; very hard to regulate. In addition, in determining whether an individual is 'wholly at fault' for their alcohol induced condition, it would take doctors and other healthcare professionals away from the delivery of care to patients.

Continued

Welsh Secretary: **Dr Richard JP Lewis**, CStJ MB ChB MRCGP MFELM Dip IMC RCS(Ed) PGDip FLM
Chief Executive/Secretary: **Tony Bourne**

Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee. Registered No: 05438 England.
Registered office: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, W1H 0AE
Incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Trade Marks and Labels Regulations Act 1994.



However, we are concerned about excessive and 'binge' drinking in Wales and the harm that this has on individuals, families, communities and the NHS. We have undertaken countless public health campaigns and published numerous reports¹ on this. Our most recent policy – and our Manifesto for the 2011 National Assembly Elections – calls on Government to take strong action to tackle alcohol related harm, including:

1. Introducing minimum price levels for the sale of alcoholic drinks and to end irresponsible promotional activities like two-for-ones and ladies drink free;
2. Increase the alcohol duty above the rate of inflation and proportionate to the amount of alcohol in the product;
3. Increased provision of information on drinking guidelines and health warnings at the point of sale and on all alcoholic products;
4. Introduce a total ban on alcohol advertising in the media, including sponsorship;
5. Provide sufficient training to enable health professionals to detect and manage people with alcohol misuse problems.

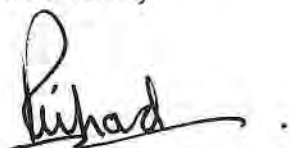
BMA policy with regards to patients who are violent, threatening or abusive to healthcare professionals is somewhat different and BMA Cymru Wales has supported the governments' previous campaigns about zero tolerance. Even in such circumstances, we do not think that they should be denied urgent or necessary care.

In our ethics publications, the BMA says that patients have a duty to behave reasonably but there is no obvious way this could be enforced. Where the incidents are alcohol-related, the patient may not be in a fit state of mind to assess what is reasonable and we would not want such patients excluded from care if they are at risk of serious harm and likely to require a medical examination. Where possible, we would support better education of patients and the public on alcohol abuse and violence / aggression against NHS staff and also more practical measures such as the installation of CCTV and the provision of panic alarms. Of course, the link between mental health and alcohol abuse is well known and deserves more focused attention and investment from Government.

It remains unacceptable that doctors and other healthcare workers are exposed to physical and verbal abuse in the workplace on a daily basis – and it is concerning that the emphasis on tackling such behaviour seems to be focussed on hospitals, when in actual fact, of equal (if not more) concern are NHS employees working alone, such as GPs and their support staff.

I hope that my response and comments are of interest to you and to the Committee in considering the petition – please do not hesitate contact me should you require further information.

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Lewis
Welsh Secretary

¹ Alcohol misuse: tackling the UK epidemic, 23 April 2009; Under the influence - the damaging effect of alcohol marketing on young people 07 September 2009; Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders 22 January 2008; Binge Drinking 2005; Adolescent Health 2003; Alcohol and Young People 1999; Alcohol Guidelines and Sensible Drinking 1995.

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Ms Christine Chapman AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
Your reference P-03-283

Dear Ms Chapman

Charging for Alcohol related incidents

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2011 regarding the above issue and for giving the College of Paramedics the opportunity to comment on this complex problem. The College is grateful to Nigel Rees, a member of the Governing Council of the College and a Senior Paramedic Practitioner in Wales for contributing to this response.

Managing the burden of alcohol on ambulance and emergency services is of global concern, however is also an extremely difficult area influenced by many factors, including social and law enforcement. Whilst the College of Paramedics is in favour of attempts to reduce the burden of incidents involving alcohol, we feel that care must be taken to avoid implementing any strategy that could put patients at risk.

The College is aware that the burden of alcohol related emergencies on the Ambulance Service in Wales has resulted in unremitting pressure which may affect response to life threatening situations. Wales is not alone in facing this problem which has resulted in service providers questioning how to address it in the safest way possible. The damaging effects of alcohol can result in acute medical, surgical and traumatic emergencies. Aligned with this, alcohol consumption lays on a continuum of use, ranging from sensible drinking to harmful and binge drinking. This presents questions over how one would legislate in such an area without prejudicing the care of the medical, surgical, traumatic and mental health emergencies on one hand, and limiting the impact of the aggressive intoxicated on the other.

Whilst the College of Paramedics does not oppose efforts to tackle the growing burden of alcohol consumption on services, it requests that its views are included and considered in strategies such as the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG 2008) 10-year substance misuse strategy. The College's preferred approach to this problem is a thoughtful debate surrounding the issues in WAG (2008) in aiming to reduce harm caused by alcohol through mechanisms of support, improved services, education and protecting families of substance misusers, whilst tackling the inappropriate availability of alcohol. The College of Paramedics feels that this could be achieved by a well coordinated approach involving other agencies, and a realistic change in health and social policy. For example:

- Engaging with Police and the like to provide safe assessment areas (not necessarily A&E) staffed by paramedics and police.
- Highlighting the public health message of the damaging effects of alcohol, in an attempt to 'modify help seeking behaviour'

- Use of CAGE screening questionnaires reported back to GPs etc.

Legislating in this area as has been suggested in your correspondence to the College of Paramedics may have unseen repercussions. By the nature of their intoxication, it is not always the patient who calls 999; but often is a concerned member of public, bystander friend or family member. Concerned callers cannot be expected to safely differentiate between the intoxicated individual, stroke victim, head injury, diabetic or other conditions in a range of pathology. The College is therefore concerned that any message to the public that a charge is to be levied retrospectively or otherwise may limit their willingness to call for assistance and could be seen as an affront to patient safety.

Yours sincerely

A Newton

Chair
College of Paramedics



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Ystafell 3-081
Parc Cathays
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CF10 3NQ

Uwch Arolygydd Anthony Matthias Superintendent
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“To be the Professional Voice of Police Leadership across Wales”

6th December 2010

Ms. Chapman A.M.,
Chair,
Petitions Committee,
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1NA.

Dear Ms. Chapman,

P-03-283 NHS Charging for Alcohol Related Incidents

I write on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Wales (ACPO Cymru), in response to the above Petition. As such this response should be considered the view of all four Police Forces in Wales.

The impact upon the NHS in Wales and across the UK of alcohol related incidents is well acknowledged and we have sought to support our NHS colleagues here in Wales in a number of ways. These include the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between NHS Wales, the Crown Prosecution Service and ACPO Cymru designed to tackle issues around violence and aggression that emanates within healthcare settings often directly related to the effects of alcohol on individuals.

As a service our staff also experience, often at first hand, the impact on individuals and communities of alcohol abuse. Such incidents place a disproportionate requirement upon our resources and often divert our staff away from other activities we could be doing in support of our communities.

However, whilst we support the principle of reducing the harmful affects of alcohol we also recognise the many challenging practical and ethical issues that would need to be overcome before this quite complex proposal could be progressed. For example, for

practical reasons, implementation of the proposal would require some form of objective, qualitative test to establish levels of intoxication alongside a „test“ to establish “wholly the fault of the individual or individuals concerned”. Clearly, at this stage, there is no legislative procedure or statute that exists to support any element of such processes. Beyond such measures, what is really required is a significant shift in social behaviour with an emphasis on safe, social drinking.

The petitioner, Mr Derrick Wynne Rees makes a heart felt and impassioned plea for the consideration of charging and whilst we certainly have empathy for this cause. However, the challenges that would need to be overcome do mean that a great deal of preparatory work would need to be undertaken before it could become a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. I will be happy to assist if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Kirby', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julian Kirby
Assistant Chief Constable
Territorial Policing



BWRDD CYMRU | WALES BOARD

Andrea Matthews
Swyddog Cyswllt ac Ymgynghori
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Andrea Matthews
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Ms. Christine Chapman, AM
Chair
Petitions Committee,
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Reference: P-03-283

9th March 2011

Dear Ms. Chapman,

Response to Petition P-03-283 NHS Charging for Alcohol related incidents

Thank you for including the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales in the circulation of the above document. I confirm that the correspondence has been forwarded to all Community Health Councils in Wales and to members of the Board of Community Health Council electronic Citizen Panel. Community Health Councils are “the patients’ voice” within the NHS in Wales and as such, our main concern is that all patients receive a timely, safe, efficient and equitable service.

The Board of Community Health Councils in Wales supports the view of the Minister and is also concerned about problems associated with excessive alcohol consumption. Through contact with NHS staff and Local Health Boards across Wales CHCs are very aware of the impact that alcohol misuse has on the health service and staff.

I should state, however, that the Community Health Council involvement at this stage of the process has been questioned as a petition of just 116 signatures is considered insufficient to justify action on a matter that concerns the whole of Wales.

I therefore, request that this correspondence is not treated as an official response and the view of the Board of Community Health Councils but as a conduit for sharing the views of the wider public.

To date I have received correspondence from 18 individuals and 4 Community Health Council Officers offering a view on the proposals contained in the petition. Of these 22 responses opinions were evenly split with 8 agreeing with the content of the petition; 8 against the proposition, while 6 considered more background information should have been forthcoming to enable them to come to a view.

Chairman: Mrs. Gill Davies

Director: Mrs. Carol Lamyman-Davies

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Please find below a summary of the comments received identified under topical headings:

Administration.

- Who will be responsible for administering the process?
- This proposal will add another layer of bureaucracy to the NHS and have resultant costs.
- Would need to know where the administrative burden would lie before signing up to this proposal.
- It will be difficult to differentiate between different levels of alcohol use and circumstances.
- Concerned about the costs of implementing such a proposal. If a charge is not paid before discharge, will they be kept until they pay up or given time to pay?
- Difficult to implement as it will require assessment and a judgement to be made presumably by NHS staff.
- How would an alcohol related incident be defined? Would it cover anyone who had been drinking or someone guilty of an offence e.g. driving over the limit?
- How would fault be defined? Would someone who had been drinking and just fallen over be deemed to be at fault?
- If hospital staff were expected to make an “on the spot” judgement and confront a drunken member of the public that would positively fuel abuse and violence.

Against the propositions.

- “A pernicious petition which should be rejected out of hand as inimical to the ethos of our healthcare service. The NHS should be free to all at the point of entry whether they are responsible for their conditions or not”
- Concern that the proposal will deter a person from seeking assistance. Suggest that unruly, drunken patients be segregated from other people attending A&E although accept that this could not be achieved without adding to NHS costs.
- “Understand the proposal but do not think it is the right approach for several reasons. If people are abusive/threatening staff a zero tolerance approach is a better solution – where treatment is withheld until people refrain from such behavior. As a layman I would say that a duty to treat is waivable in such circumstances”.
- “A ridiculous idea given the tax and duty paid on alcohol.”
- Proposal is not supported. Patients with some neurological conditions present with similar symptoms that might make staff think they are drunk.
- It sets a precedent and triggers concerns about where the next charges would be made.
- A bad idea in principle likely to be vague and unworkable in practice.
- Do not think it is right for the NHS to start judging and discriminating against the lifestyle of others.

Alternative indulgences.

- How is alcohol misuse different from drugs, cigarettes, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases etc? If petitioners wish to recover the cost of alcohol related treatment does this then open the door to recover costs from other indulgences that have a detrimental impact on health?
- Having established the principle others might seek to say drug users, those who attempted suicide and those indulging in hazardous sports etc should pay to be transported to hospital or perhaps for treatment itself.

Chairman: Mrs. Gill Davies

Director: Mrs. Carol Lamyman-Davies

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Cost recovery.

- The Ambulance service already has the power to attribute costs to insurance companies in the case of road traffic accidents, although it is understood that this is rarely used as the process extremely onerous.
- What happens to people without the means to pay? Would treatment be refused?
- Some people would not pay any charges levied and the recovery of charges process could be expensive.

Measurement.

- How will excessive alcohol consumption be measured?
- Will everyone found over the limit have to pay for treatment?
- If someone is an innocent victim of violence but both parties record excess alcohol levels will the victim also be responsible for paying for treatment?
- Some investigation will be needed to establish who is the victim and who the oppressor.
- The changes as presently proposed may be either unfair or provocative in some instances and potentially unworkable.

In Support.

- “Support for the petition with some degree of discretion built in to allow for exceptional circumstances e.g. very young and those with mental health problems.”
- “Best idea the NHS has had in years!”
- “Excellent idea! Something I would support as it would pay for the security currently required in most A&E departments”.

Other comments:

- The NHS should always be free at the point of consumption as was intended when it was set up.
- This proposal sets a dangerous precedent.
- The proposals need to be opened for wider debate and more thought.
- Actual implementation would be fraught with problems; it would be very subjective and impossible to gain fairness across the board.
- The philosophy behind the subject needs to be more forthright and focused on the cost in time and money.
- If money is the issue, then perhaps the petition should be about raising a charge against patients who “do not attend” whose actions cost considerable wasted clinical time and money.
- Does the petition aim to address the problems relating to short term excess or include health related problems caused by long term alcohol misuse e.g. liver and heart disease?
- Without more information about the details and size of the problem it is difficult to comment.
- If people want to reduce the level of alcohol related incidents there are many ways the law can reduce availability and/or increase the cost of alcohol. If we are concerned about the level of verbal and physical abuse of NHS staff perpetrators need to be reported and prosecuted.
- If the aim is to reduce abuse to staff and police then charging for treatment is unlikely to influence the type of person who is responsible for this behavior. A curb on sources of cheap alcohol and the imposition of high local taxes on the pubs and clubs which allow the problem is needed. Prioritization should be given to enforcement of licensing and behavior laws which already exist.
- The phrase “ *alcohol related and wholly the fault of the individual or individuals concerned*” sounds like a matter for adjudications and misunderstanding which would be difficult to prove.

Chairman: Mrs. Gill Davies

Director: Mrs. Carol Lamyman-Davies

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- One option which might be more constructive and an easy to implement working dynamic would be to make it clear, as a matter of policy, that unless a person is seriously at risk, the NHS will not treat an individual who is involved in a verbal upset or incident and who also fails a breathalyzer. They will be left to sober up so they can receive treatment as a matter of policy and not an issue of personal judgement. To bring in an objective test like the breathalyzer would remove the need for subjective accusation and challenge of an individual. Just because someone is drunk or would fail a breathalyzer test needn't necessarily mean they won't receive treatment unless they are also abusive and/or violent. In which case they will fall foul of local NHS policy and may be left drinking coffee for a couple of hours until the sober up and calm down. It may also be worth having a set caution given or read out to them in case problems flare up later when they are sober.

Finally, I stress that the Board of Community Health Councils is not offering an official view on the subject and, indeed, has not debated the issue. However harnessing the links available within the CHC network has allowed us to obtain a variety of views directly from members of the public. I hope you find these comments useful in your deliberations on the petition proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Matthews

Andrea Matthews,
Consultation & Liaison Officer

Chairman: Mrs. Gill Davies

Director: Mrs. Carol Lamyman-Davies

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Rhodri,

Following our earlier telephone discussion with regard to the NAW petition P-03-283 that states *,"We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to consider the introduction of charges for treatment and transport of patients to hospitals in those cases where the incident is alcohol related and wholly the fault of the individual or individuals concerned. We hope that these charges will help to reduce the number of calls and treatment by the NHS and as a consequence would hopefully reduce the amount of physical and verbal abuse towards NHS staff"* , we regret that we are unable to compile an all Wales view on this issue for the committee at this time.

As discussed on the telephone earlier, our reasons for not being able to offer a response to the committee at this time are related to the following: -

- This petition raises many complex issues. The result of this is that there are many differing opinions on the best way forward across the NHS in Wales and it would be very difficult at this time to put together a response to the petition that represented the views of the majority of our members

I hope this clarifies the position for the committee

Regards

Jonathan Davies

Head of Policy & Communications
Welsh NHS Confederation

13. P-03-288 Strategaeth Genedlaethol ar Fyw'n Annibynnol

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gyflwyno strategaeth genedlaethol ar fyw'n annibynnol sy'n cydnabod hawliau cyfartal pobl anabl i fyw yn y gymuned, gyda'r un dewisiadau â phobl eraill, ac i sicrhau y gwneir hyn drwy fesurau effeithiol a phriodol.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-288.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Anabledd Cymru

Nifer y llofnodion: 284

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 30 Tachwedd 2010 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol, y deisebwyr a Chymdeithas y Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol ym Mhrydain. Mae'r rhain wedi'u cynnwys isod.

Gwenda Thomas AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-288
Ein cyf/Our ref GT-0085-11

Christine Chapman AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

22nd February 2011

Dear Christine,

Further to my letter of the 12 February, I have met with Carl Sargeant AM and I am now in a position to update you on our discussion about the petition for a National Strategy on Independent Living.

As outlined in Carl Sargeant's response to the National Assembly for Wales debate on the 13 May 2010, independent living features in many policies and strategies across the Welsh Assembly Government and we do not think that a further strategy is the best way to progress this work. We feel that this work might be better progressed as part of the ongoing work to implement the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act 2010 provides a new cross-cutting legislative framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all; to update, simplify and strengthen the previous legislation and to deliver a simple, modern and accessible framework of discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.

In Wales the Equality Act confers powers on the Welsh Ministers in relation to the public sector equality duty. To enable better performance of the general public sector equality duty by Welsh devolved public authorities, the Welsh Ministers have the power to impose specific public sector equality duties on relevant Welsh public authorities. We are currently developing the draft Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties)(Wales) Regulations 2011 which will be laid before the National Assembly for Wales very shortly. The focus of these duties is the delivery of positive outcomes through evidence based equality objectives and these objectives can only be developed with the involvement of the people affected by the objectives, and after relevant information has been collected and analysed. These duties will come into force on 6 April and the equality objectives will be published by 2 April 2012.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1NA

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Correspondence.Gwenda.Thomas@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

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Organisations such as Disability Wales will have the opportunity to feed into this evidence gathering exercise and the development of the equality objectives, and although it is important not to pre-judge the outcomes of this work, should evidence suggest that there is a need for particular attention in a specific area such as independent living, work will be taken forward with the statutory obligation to report on progress.

Whilst we support the Independent Living Strategy in principle, we believe that considering this work within the new legislative framework will ensure that positive outcomes are effectively delivered and delivered across all Welsh Assembly Government portfolios. It is also the case that the means to deliver independent living are not solely the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. The UK Government has, for example, responsibility for areas such as welfare and benefits that are key to facilitating independent living. Similarly, the Independent Living Fund assists individuals in leading independent lives and the decisions taken by the UK Government on the future of this fund will have a profound impact on this agenda.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government will be pleased to keep the petitions committee updated on progress as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely

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

Gwenda Thomas AC/AM

Christine Chapman AM,
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

2 March 2011

Dear Christine

P-03-288 National Strategy on Independent Living

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2011 regarding the above petition. You invited Disability Wales' views on the information gathered so far and asked whether we feel that the work being taken forward by the Welsh Assembly Government helps disabled people to live independently. You also invited our views on the Direct Payment Scheme, and whether this helps support Independent Living.

I am pleased to enclose DW's response to these questions. As you will see, we believe there are two key points for the Assembly to take into full consideration in deciding whether to develop a National Strategy: the cross-cutting nature of Independent Living, and its potential for achieving more effective use of resources.

I have also enclosed a copy of DW's Manifesto for Independent Living, which we presented in the Senedd today.

Thank you for considering our petition and please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Swann
Policy Officer (Independent Living)

P-03-288 National Strategy on Independent Living

Disability Wales (DW) welcomes this opportunity to submit further information regarding our petition for a National Strategy on Independent Living.

We wish to make two key points which we believe the Assembly should take into full consideration when deciding whether to develop a National Strategy on Independent Living for disabled people in all impairment/age groups, to build on existing policy and legislation. The first concerns the cross-cutting nature of Independent Living, and the second its potential for achieving more effective use of resources.

Independent Living: a Cross Cutting Policy Issue

Independent Living is a cross-cutting policy issue. Whilst health and social services are key to Independent Living for many disabled people, education, employment, housing, transport, leisure, access to information, advice and advocacy, access to goods and services, access to aids and equipment, and access to the built and green environments are also vital to enabling Independent Living and social inclusion for disabled people.

This is highlighted in DW's *Manifesto for Independent Living*, launched in the Senedd on 2 March 2011. The Manifesto identifies six "calls for action", covering a broad range of issues, which disabled people have prioritised during DW's Independent Living NOW! campaign. These are:

1. Improved access to information, advice, independent advocacy and peer support services for all
2. Availability of accessible and supported housing to meet individual requirements

3. A comprehensive range of options and genuine choice and control in how personalised care and support is delivered
4. Improved access to Person Centred Technology (aids & equipment)
5. A barrier free transport system, including all modes of transport
6. Enabling access, involvement and social, economic and cultural inclusion for all disabled people.

The Deputy Minister's letter of 15 December 2010 refers to the opposition debate on 12 May 2010, which resulted in unanimous cross party support "for the principles of the Independent Living NOW! campaign, and recognised the positive contribution the campaign will make in advancing the Social Model of Disability which has been adopted by the Welsh Assembly Government."

The Deputy Minister also comments in her letter that in addition to adoption of the Social Model of Disability and implementation of the Direct Payments Scheme:

"There is more that needs to be done to achieve our vision of a fair and just society. Carl Sargeant acknowledged this in the debate and stated that, although we did not believe another strategy was needed, he would be keen to explore how the work being carried out across the Assembly Government to support all disabled people could be brought together and built upon."

Whilst valuing the Assembly Government's commitment to achieving a fair and just society, the wide ranging and complex barriers to equality, social inclusion and Independent Living that disabled people face on a daily basis must be addressed comprehensively, systemically and across all departments.

In DW's view, only a full cross-government strategy can achieve this goal. This has been acknowledged in England, where an *Independent Living Strategy* (2008) is in place, and in Scotland where *A Vision for Independent Living in Scotland* was agreed in 2009.

Currently there is no comparable strategic vision for Independent Living in Wales.

Recognising the complexity of providing care and support that enables Independent Living, DW is currently working with Participation Cymru to develop an “Independent Living in Practice” training for public services (and particularly social services) staff. The first training will be delivered in September 2011.

The recently published Assembly Government paper on *Sustainable Social Services: A Framework for Action* includes the following paragraph:

3.15 Social services can rightly feel proud of their track record of being citizen centred. Children and young people have clear rights, supported by well developed structures to make these a reality, by advocacy services and by a Children’s Commissioner. Our Rights of Children and Young Persons Measure will deepen that commitment. Wales has been a world leader in services for people with a learning disability and we will continue to build on this. We have an internationally acclaimed Strategy for Older People and the world’s first Commissioner for Older People.

The paper includes a detailed section on the issues that will be addressed in relation to social services for older people, and another on transition for young people. There is no comparable section relating to support for disabled people.

DW suggests that the priority given to older people’s and children’s services in the Government’s strategic thinking is due largely to the impact achieved by the *Strategy for Older People in Wales* (2003 and 2008) and *The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services* (2005).

With regard to children’s services, the Welsh Assembly is rightly proud of its work based on the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC).

DW believe that development of services for disabled people will continue to be under-prioritised until the Assembly has a National Strategy on Independent Living in place, based on the rights established by the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (UNCRPD). Article 19 of the UNCRPD, on “Being included and living independently in the community”, recognises “the equal right of all disabled persons to live in the community, with choices equal to others”.

DW will shortly be submitting evidence to an Inquiry into the Implementation of the Right of Disabled People to Independent Living. This is being conducted by the Joint Commission on Human Rights, chaired by Dr. Hywel Francis MP (Aberavon). DW suggest that one way for the Welsh Assembly Government to be proactive in fulfilling its responsibilities under the UNCRPD is by introducing a National Strategy on Independent Living.

Independent Living: an effective use of resources

In her forward to *Sustainable Social Services* the Deputy Minister states:

“Our priority is about getting it right first time. The days in which public services could act separately are past. Where appropriate we expect public services to work together to deliver integrated services.”

In deciding whether to develop a National Strategy on Independent Living, the Assembly should take into full consideration the potential resource efficiencies that can be achieved through “getting it right first time”.

This potential is acknowledged by the Efficiency and Innovation Programme and Board, under which the New Models of Service Delivery Work Stream has “promoting independent living and wellbeing” as one of its “big issues”.

The primary goal of a National Strategy on Independent Living is to enable services to “get it right first time”.

DW’s Manifesto for Independent Living highlights Office for Disability Issues research which states:

Published material to date indicates that the delivery of Independent Living support to disabled people is more cost effective, or at least no more expensive, than traditional care provision.

- The Costs and Benefits of Independent Living (2007)

The report concludes:

At an individual level there is substantial qualitative evidence suggesting that Independent Living provides significantly more benefits than conventional forms of service provision and that Independent Living can also be cost effective for the individual recipients.

At service delivery level several published evaluations highlighted the reduced costs involved in the delivery of Independent Support mechanisms. Consultations and case studies reinforced this view, highlighting the inherent inefficiencies involved in traditional care provision.

*At the macro-economic level the literature highlights that there are significant costs for the Exchequer in **not** addressing barriers faced by disabled people (and) shows that investment in Independent Living would result in sizeable Exchequer long- term cost savings, due to the increase in tax revenues, a reduced state benefits bill and less pressure on health and acute social care services.*

The report suggests the need to adopt an „invest to save“ approach to delivery of Independent Living.

Disabled people in Wales do not accept the status of second class citizens. Independent Living is specifically designed to provide disabled people with the same choice, control, opportunities and freedom as any other citizen – at home, at work, and as equal and fully included members of the community.

Independent Living cannot be realised without a deep understanding of what it means to disabled people, a clear vision of the practical outcomes it seeks to achieve and a concerted effort to implement it by all departments.

Looked at in this light, DW suggests that the case for a National Strategy on Independent Living in Wales is incontrovertible.

Direct Payment Scheme

The Committee sought DW's views on the Direct Payment Scheme and whether this helps support Independent Living.

DW has been instrumental in promoting the uptake of Direct Payments in Wales. In 2004 DW organised two WAG sponsored conferences on “Promoting Direct Payments: Myths & Models”. DW is a member of the WAG Direct Payments Overview group and more recently were represented on a Task and Finish Group charged with reviewing Direct Payments policy, regulation and practice guidance, and designing the Community Care Direct Payments Scheme consultation. DW also enjoys observer status on the Direct Payments Support Schemes Network.

In DW’s view, the relatively low uptake of Direct Payments in Wales is due largely to ambivalence towards the scheme in some local authorities. We are aware of cases in which social work teams appear to have wrongly made decisions based on service users’ *suitability* for a Direct Payment, rather than on their *eligibility*. This was a key finding in the WAG funded *Survey on the Implementation of the current Direct Payments Scheme in Wales* (Collis, A., 2007). The report states:

The Evidence from this survey is that Direct Payments are not routinely offered to everyone who is potentially eligible. There are also different interpretations of who may be potentially eligible.

Where local authorities have a Direct Payments Lead Officer in post, uptake rates have been significantly improved. However, the *Survey on the Implementation of the current Direct Payments Scheme in Wales* comments that:

Direct Payments can be driven for a limited time by enthusiasm and commitment from practitioners, team managers and /or Direct Payments lead workers. In the longer term strategic commitment is essential.

DW are currently discussing with other stakeholders the potential for a national conference later this year to encourage local authorities and their partners to take the necessary steps to ensure a significant increase in the take up of Direct Payments over the next three years. The conference proposal is dependent on adequate funding being identified.

DW welcomes the commitment made in *Sustainable Social Services* to “stronger citizen control” in service design, commissioning and delivery. The paper states:

3.17 For some people, control means managing their service themselves. Direct payments are an important tool for greater control for some people. Where people make the choice to have direct payments, we will expect them to have a right to receive them. We will work with all stakeholders, and in particular with service user interests, to develop a model of self-directed support that is consistent with our principles for social care - including a stronger infrastructure of support for those who choose these routes.

The Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support (WACDS), of which DW is a Council member, is developing a „made in Wales“ approach to the system of self-directed support that has been implemented in England. WACDS is an alliance of citizens, disabled people’s representatives, local authorities and service providers. The Alliance is committed to promoting and supporting the development of public services which give citizens genuine choice and control over services that enable Independent Living.

Direct Payments are one method by which Citizen Directed Support can be administered. As such, DW fully supports the Assembly’s continued commitment to promoting Direct Payments. Other methods of administering CDS are being piloted in some forward thinking local authorities in Wales with the aim of developing “a comprehensive range of options and genuine choice and control in how personalised care and support is delivered”, as called for in DW’s *Manifesto for Independent Living*.

In its response to the Community Care Direct Payments Scheme consultation, DW called for WAG to support research into recipients’ experience of Direct Payments, and also into the experience of those who decide not to take up a Direct Payment. A longitudinal study of the experience and expectations of people who receive Direct Payments would provide a sound evidence base for further policy development.

DW also recommends a review of progress made against the recommendations included in the *Survey on the Implementation of the current Direct Payments Scheme in Wales*.

DW would welcome an opportunity to respond to any further enquiries that the Petitions Committee may have in relation to this and previous submissions in support of the case for a National Strategy on Independent Living.

References

Disability Wales' Manifesto for Independent Living

<http://www.disabilitywales.org/2587.file.dld>

Welsh Conservatives Debate: The Independent Living NOW! Campaign for Wales, The Record of Proceedings, National Assembly for Wales, 12 May 2010

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=180970&ds=5/2010#dadldeids>

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<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/socialcare/guidance1/services/?lang=en>

Independent Living Strategy (2008):

<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/odi-projects/independent-living-strategy.php>

A Vision for Independent Living in Scotland (2009)

<http://www.ilis.co.uk/independent-living/a-vision-for-independent-living-in-scotland/>

Independent Living: Development of a cross- government five year strategy

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/33015>

The Costs and Benefits of Independent Living, Hurstfield J., Parashar U. and Schofield K., published by the Office for Disability Issues, Department for Work and Pensions (2007)

<http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/docs/res/il/costs-benefits-report.pdf>

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Strategy for Older People in Wales (2003 and 2008)

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/olderpeople/publications/strategy2008-2013/?lang=en>

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (2005).

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?OrgID=441>

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

Inquiry into the Implementation of the Right of Disabled People to Independent Living, Joint Human Rights Committee

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news/right-of-disabled-people-to-independent-living-call-for-evidence/>

Dear Naomi & Rhodri,

Please find attached Disability Wales' response to Christine Chapman's letter of 26 January 2011.

As I mentioned to Rhodri, we launched our Manifesto for Independent Living at Ty Hywel this afternoon. A pdf of the Manifesto is attached.

An important point was raised during the panel discussion which I'd like to take this opportunity to address.

Whilst, once again, there was broad cross-party support for the principles on which the Manifesto is based, there was some discussion about whether a National Strategy on Independent Living is the right mechanism to move things forward. Some concerns were raised about whether there is a need for "yet another national strategy", on the grounds that the bureaucracy accompanying such strategies can be onerous, and that very often no one is held to account.

DW fully agrees that to produce a National Strategy on Independent Living that merely gathers dust would serve no one's interests. Similarly, it would be unhelpful to produce a strategy that creates onerous bureaucracy and which lacks mechanisms to ensure accountability.

DW maintain that a National Strategy on Independent Living is vital to ensuring that this important agenda is taken forward dynamically and consistently across Wales. Without a national strategy, the postcode lottery that disabled people already face in terms of accessing appropriate services, can only worsen.

A clear vision and action plan from central government is vital if local authorities and other public bodies are to take Independent Living forward coherently and with purpose. Without this driver from central government, the likelihood is

that in many parts of Wales, little or nothing will be done to address disabled people's concerns.

As our accompanying submission points out, some national strategies have been very successful in achieving service improvements. The intention is to ensure that the learning gained from implementing previous national strategies helps inform and shape the structure of a National Strategy on Independent Living, so that it achieves what disabled people want: choice, voice, control, equality, independence and inclusion.

I hope this additional comment helps to clarify why we believe that a National Strategy on Independent Living is essential.

Many thanks for your continuing assistance.

Kind regards,

Paul

Paul Swann

Policy Officer (Independent Living)
Disability Wales / Anabledd Cymru

Dear Rhodri & Naomi,

There has been a further development relevant to Disability Wales' petition that I would like to bring to the Petitions Committee's attention if it is still possible to do so.

Andrew Goodall, Chair of the New Models of Service Delivery Workstream, circulated a letter on 1 March 2011 (attached) which provides a link to the Workstream's website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/challenge/workstreams/newmodels/?lang=en>

DW's main submission to the Petitions Committee noted that one of the Workstream's "big issues" is "promoting independent living and wellbeing". The Workstream's first product is a "study into integrated approaches to service delivery that promote independence and wellbeing." This is supported by a paper outlining the "key findings and high potential characteristics".

The documents can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/fJtSbC>

DW welcomes publication of the research and the spotlight it places on good practice in developing integrated services which promote Independent Living and wellbeing. It is encouraging that public services are introducing more effective joint working to improve service delivery.

However, disabled people are the experts in what kind of services are needed to promote Independent Living and it is vital that their voice is heard as new approaches to service provision are developed and implemented.

A National Strategy on Independent Living will articulate disabled people's vision for service design and delivery, together with the underlying principles upon which citizen centered services that support Independent Living must be based. It will also identify how professional practice and relationships – as well as systems – must change in order to facilitate Independent Living for disabled people.

In this way the strategy will contribute to "more effective dialogue between different parts of the system."

I trust that this final comment will be helpful to the Committee's discussion, although I do appreciate that it may be too late for it to be taken into consideration.

Kind regards,
Paul

Paul Swann
Policy Officer (Independent Living)
Disability Wales / Anabledd Cymru



Manifesto for Independent Living



Disability Wales (DW) is the national association of disabled people's organisations, striving to achieve equality, rights and independence for all disabled people, regardless of physical, sensory or neurological impairment, learning difficulty or mental health condition.

It was established in 1972 as an independent, not for profit membership organisation of disabled people, disability groups and allies from across Wales. All Board Members and most staff members identify themselves as disabled people.

DW's core role is to reflect the views of disabled people's organisations to government with the aim of informing and influencing policy.

DW's work on policy development is underpinned by the Social Model of Disability which recognises that people are disabled more by institutional, environmental and attitudinal barriers than by impairments or health conditions.

DW is widely recognised as the lead organisation in Wales in promoting the understanding, adoption and implementation of the Social Model.

In April 2010 DW launched a campaign for Independent Living NOW! The aims of the campaign include:

- raising awareness and understanding of what Independent Living means for disabled people in Wales
- calling for the introduction of a National Strategy on Independent Living
- developing a Manifesto on Independent Living.

Campaign briefings were held in Gwynedd, Wrexham, Powys, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. Discussions with disabled people at these and other meetings helped to develop the Manifesto priorities.

Manifesto

Why Disability Wales has developed a Manifesto for Independent Living



“Independent Living enables us as disabled people to achieve our own goals and live our own lives in the way that we choose for ourselves”

Disability Wales, 2010.

Independent Living is now a major policy issue.

Over 20% of the Welsh population are disabled. In addition to the barriers to education, employment, access and social inclusion that disabled people face on a daily basis, many are now experiencing cuts to both benefit entitlements and public services.

The present economic uncertainties increase the likelihood that growing numbers of disabled people in Wales will be pushed into poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

At the same time, people now have higher expectations of public services. Many disabled people want more choice and control over their lives and a more personalised and participative approach to service provision.

A strategy is needed to address these challenges. This will build on existing policy and legislation, encourage more joined up partnership working and provide a vision for making the right to Independent Living a reality for disabled people in Wales.

The strategy will be underpinned by the Equality Act 2010 which provides protection and legal rights to disabled people and aims to prevent disability discrimination.

Delivering Independent Living for disabled people can also

“Published material to date indicates that the delivery of Independent Living support to disabled people is more cost effective, or at least no more expensive, than traditional care provision.”

(The Costs and Benefits of Independent Living, Office for Disability Issues, Department for Work and Pensions, 2007)

contribute to the efficiencies agenda. Meeting individual needs more fully by getting services right for people from the start avoids waste and makes the most effective use of public funding.

The Welsh Assembly, which adopted the Social Model of Disability in 2002, is already engaged in work that supports Independent Living, e.g. the commitment to Direct Payments, the development of community equipment stores and the priority given to making rail travel accessible.

A National Strategy for Independent Living will help link these and other policy initiatives together into a coherent and phased programme of work for local authorities, the NHS and other service providers to deliver. The Welsh Assembly’s role will be to set the agenda, facilitate partnership working and encourage good practice.

A debate in the National Assembly on 12 May 2010 established unanimous cross-party support for the principles of Disability Wales’ Independent Living NOW! campaign, which called for a National Strategy on Independent Living.

A Disability Wales petition to show support for a National Strategy on Independent Living was signed by 719 people across Wales.

This support for Independent Living is welcome but must now be translated into practical action.

The Manifesto identifies six priority areas to be addressed in a National Strategy on Independent Living. These priorities were agreed following a series of discussions with groups and individuals which took place during Disability Wales’ Independent Living NOW! Campaign.

The priorities are:

- 1.** Improved access to information, advice, independent advocacy and peer support services for all
- 2.** Availability of accessible and supported housing to meet individual requirements
- 3.** A comprehensive range of options and genuine choice and control in how personalised care and support is delivered
- 4.** Improved access to Person Centred Technology (aids & equipment)
- 5.** A barrier free transport system, including all modes of transport
- 6.** Enabling access, involvement and social, economic and cultural inclusion for all disabled people.

DW calls on politicians of all parties to ensure that both the Social Model of Disability and the Manifesto for Independent Living are taken fully into account when developing policy and legislation that directly affects disabled people.

DW calls upon the Welsh Assembly Government to lead on:

- investigating how these priorities can be addressed
- bringing together relevant parties and stakeholders, including Disabled People's Organisations
- setting out its expectations, and
- calling parties to account on delivery.

A Manifesto for Independent Living

Independent Living is an idea that helps with understanding the barriers that disabled people face in their everyday lives.

It shows what needs to be done to ensure that disabled people are valued and treated with the same respect as other citizens.

Independent Living does not mean that disabled people should have to live in isolation, do everything for themselves or be completely independent of services. It means:

- removing the barriers that prevent full social and economic participation in mainstream society, and
- ensuring that disabled people have the same freedom, choice, dignity, control and opportunities as any other citizen – at home, at work and in the community.

The right to Independent Living is set out in Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which recognises “the equal right of all disabled persons to live in the community, with choices equal to others”.

Action on the following priorities will help make this a reality for disabled people in Wales.

Call to Action 1

Access to information, advice, independent advocacy and peer support services for all



“The Welsh Assembly Government, local government and independent partners should work together to ensure that people have access to better information, advocacy and support to make informed choices about their own care and support”

(From Vision to Action: The Report of the Independent Commission on Social Services in Wales, 2010)

Disabled people consistently identify the need for information, advice, advocacy and peer support as a high priority in enabling Independent Living.

Currently access to these services is a postcode lottery across Wales. Many disabled people are therefore failing to access their rights and the entitlements they need to support Independent Living.

The Disability Law Service, in its report *One Stop, Many Shops* (2010) calls for more user led information and advice services, modelled on Centres for Independent Living (CILs).

Advocacy Wales, the national umbrella organisation for Independent Advocacy providers, calls for “the expansion of Independent Advocacy for adults across Wales as a vital service which enables citizens to make their voice heard, secure their rights and access the support they need to live the life they choose.”

“There's no way they would have listened to me without an advocate because I just don't understand all the forms... I've been through poverty, I've been through people not understanding me, the system not taking you seriously... whereas with an advocate they do, and since having an advocate it's got my life in order and balanced.” *Nicola*

Priority actions

We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a coherent and adequately resourced approach to the delivery of high quality information, advice, advocacy and peer support services across the country.

This approach could be developed as part of a wider National Strategy on Independent Living.

Many of these services could be provided by local Disabled People's Organisations which, with appropriate support, could develop into Centres for Independent Living (CILs).

We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to support the development of:

- CILs in all local authority areas, and
- a national online information and advice hub for disabled people.

Call to Action 2

Availability of accessible and supported housing to meet individual requirements



“12% of adults with impairments experienced difficulty accessing rooms within their home or difficulty getting in or out of their home, compared with 1% of adults without impairments.”

(Life Opportunities Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2010)

“The current shortfall of accessible or readily adapted housing, coupled with patchy provision of support, severely limits the independence, geographical mobility and employment opportunities of many disabled people and their families. It increases pressure on costly social or residential care, or in the absence of public services, on unpaid carers.”

(Disability Agenda, Disability Rights Commission, 2007)

The extent of the housing problems faced by disabled people in Wales is unclear due to insufficient research and a lack of hard data. However, it is known that:

- housing services face increasing demand from people who require adapted/accessible housing
- disabled people report a lack of choice in available housing options
- there are unacceptably long waiting times for Disabled Facilities Grants in many areas of Wales, with some people reporting waiting lists of up to 18 months

- less than half of Welsh local authorities currently maintain Accessible Housing Registers (Looking for an accessible home: accessible housing registers in Wales, Disability Wales, 2009)

“Since leaving University I have applied to three different housing associations plus the local housing authority for single occupancy, accessible/adapted housing. I am adamant that I do not want to live in shared accommodation. Would you want to live with someone you didn’t know, or had no rapport with? No, I don’t think so!”

James

Priority actions

We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to undertake benchmarking research to establish:

- the level of housing need in relation to disabled people across all age and impairment groups
- the shortfall in accessible housing
- whether the housing stock meets the standards of Building Regulations Part M and WAG Lifetime Homes requirements.

We also call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to:

- ensure that all local authorities establish and maintain AHRs by 2015 and share this information effectively
- improve the efficient use of existing and future accessible housing
- work with WLGA to introduce new upgraded accessibility standards for new build private and social housing
- ensure local authorities undertake proper assessment of existing and future housing and support requirements, and plan accordingly.

Call to Action 3

A comprehensive range of options and genuine choice and control in how personalised care and support is delivered



“Implementing personalised care and support through voice and control is made easier through direct payments and personal budgets but that is not essential. Control can be exercised in other ways. It does, however, require substantial rethinking and change on the part of commissioners, service providers, social workers/care managers and people seeking and using support and care. It requires commitment at political and senior management level to significant culture change.”

(From Vision to Action: The Report of the Independent Commission on Social Services in Wales, 2010)

The Commission’s report calls upon the Welsh Assembly Government “to give a stronger commitment to seeing the principles of self-directed support adopted throughout Wales. This aligns with its stated commitment to promoting independence, prevention and early intervention.”

The forthcoming White Paper on the future of social care in Wales must heed this recommendation and include an action plan to drive the personalisation agenda forward. This is essential if disabled people in Wales are to enjoy choice and control over the services they need to achieve Independent Living.

The Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support, of which DW is a Council member, has developed an innovative approach to the delivery of outcome focused personalised services based on the

core principles of Choice and Control, Community and Change. Some local authorities have adopted this approach and implemented Citizen Directed Support pilot projects, and others are working to transform their provision of social services in line with this model.

“Sonny was the first child in Wales to have a direct payment, and then when he embarked upon adult life what I really wanted was an individualised budget, but I guess the direct payment is in a sense that. Sonny does have Independent Living Funds alongside the direct payment, but I think I would feel safer long term for him if it was an individualised budget, and we were following the model that exists in England.” *Jacky (Sonny’s mother)*

Priority actions

We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to:

- provide strategic leadership to ensure dynamic progress and consistency in developing Citizen Directed Support across Wales
- ensure that all local authorities employ Direct Payment Lead Officers responsible for increasing the take up of Direct Payments
- ensure that local authorities involve disabled people at an early stage in local authority strategic commissioning and planning processes for personalisation.

We call upon the Care Council to:

- introduce a social work training module on personalised services and Direct Payments.

We call upon the Care Council and Local Authorities to:

- support the involvement of disabled people and their organisations in providing social work teams with training in outcome focused, person centered support planning.

Call to Action 4

Access to Person Centred Technology (aids & equipment)



“19% of adults with impairments identified having access to equipment to help with a health condition or impairment as an enabler of economic activity compared to 1% of adults without impairments.”

(Life Opportunities Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2010)

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) supports disabled people’s access to assistive technology under Article 9 on accessibility and Article 20 on personal mobility.

Person Centred Technology (PCT) enables disabled people to gain greater control in achieving independence and well-being. PCT includes Electronic Assistive Technologies, Environmental Controls, Telecare, Telehealth and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

PCT assists disabled people with daily living, facilitating independence within the home and access to education and employment. If PCT was readily and widely available to disabled people it would have long term health benefits, reducing demand on the NHS and Social Services.

The lack of a thriving low-cost market in equipment that meets the real requirements of disabled people is a major barrier to Independent Living.

With regard to the development of Community Equipment Stores, there is currently a lack of clarity on which agency is responsible for funding purchases.

“They don't take into consideration the saving of costs by grasping the metal in the first place and just going for it, putting the right stuff in place at the beginning.” *Henry*

Priority actions

Whilst recognising that some of the below actions are outside the Welsh Assembly Government's scope for influence, DW calls upon WAG to lead on bringing together a partnership of designers, manufacturers and retailers with service providers and disabled people's organisations to address these issues.

The priorities are to:

- increase availability and range of Person Centred Technologies provided at no cost through local authorities
- encourage manufacturers of mobility aids and technologies to think about all aspects of mobility for disabled persons
- promote accessible information and access to Information and Communication Technology for disabled people
- promote inclusive design for new information and communication technologies so that these are designed from the start to be accessible and easy to use for disabled people
- improve regulation of equipment suppliers, preventing disproportionate profit-making, sales of inappropriate or defective equipment and banning high-pressure selling techniques
- deliver PCT information and training to health and social care professionals, enabling them to provide appropriate information and advice to disabled people
- clarify the funding arrangements for access to Community Equipment Stores.

Call to Action 5

A barrier free transport system, including all modes of transport



“74% of adults with impairments experienced restrictions in using transport compared with 58% of adults without impairments”

(Life Opportunities Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2010)

“Public transport by bus (there are very often no train services in a number of rural areas) is often inaccessible to certain passengers because they have no low level entry and the local authority is yet to complete the provision of raised bus stops. This means that the only mode of transport available to many people is their car or expensive taxis.”

(DW Member comment, January 2011)

Accessible transport is essential to Independent Living. Many disabled people use public transport to shop, attend hospital appointments, socialise and work. Without access to trains, buses and accessible parking many disabled people are excluded from their community.

Despite significant improvements to the public transport system many barriers still exist, e.g. limited travel options, lack of accessible and up-to-date information, physical, attitudinal and communication barriers, and charging for Blue Badge parking.

The Welsh Assembly Government’s commitment to prioritising rail accessibility is welcomed.

“It's training of bus drivers, you face attitude problems as if you are an inconvenience, it's what I call the huff factor, like tutting and huffing when they see a disabled person who needs a bit of assistance...The main barrier to getting out and doing things that people take for granted – going for a cup of coffee, going shopping, getting out and about – it's always transport, and that's what everybody constantly has difficulty with, using public transport is a huge obstacle.” *Julie*

Priority actions

Whilst some of the below actions are outside the Welsh Assembly Government's scope for influence, DW calls upon WAG to lead on bringing organisations together to set out its expectations and develop partnership working. The priorities are to:

Bus

- provide low level access for all bus services across Wales
- position accessible bus stops to improve access
- clarify bus providers conditions of carriage relating to the transportation of wheelchair users and scooters users
- increase the number of wheelchair spaces on buses

Train

- improve the Assisted Passenger Reservation Service system to ensure better communication between APRS booking staff and train station staff
- ensure information provided by APRS is accurate and up to date
- increase provision of accessible toilets on trains and at train stations
- increase the number of staffed stations to improve the availability of assistance

Car

- eliminate charging for provision of Blue Badges
- provide free Blue Badge disabled bay parking

Taxi

- increase provision of accessible taxis throughout Wales
- introduce a scheme to ensure affordable fares for disabled people who cannot access public transport either due to location or bus/train inaccessibility

All modes of transport

- ensure that all local authorities have a Community Transport Strategy
- Disability Equality Training for all staff to be included in service contracts
- ensure information is provided in accessible formats.

Call to Action 6

Enabling access, involvement and social, economic and cultural inclusion for all disabled people



“29% of adults with impairments experienced difficulty accessing buildings outside their home compared with 7% of adults without impairments.”

(Life Opportunities Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2010)

"If you live in a society where you are not valued, where prejudice circumscribes in advance what you can offer and even throws up barriers to your inclusion - in work, at school, or in your community - your worth as a member of society diminishes as does your opportunity to make a valued contribution."

(Sir Bert Massie, "Disabled suffer worst exclusion", BBC News, 8 June 2005)

To counteract devaluing attitudes, prejudice, disablism and discrimination, disabled people must be actively involved and engaged in all planning, design and commissioning processes.

Involving disabled people from the start and through to implementation and evaluation ensures that they are included and increases the likelihood of getting things right.

All too often the opposite happens and disabled people are consulted only as an afterthought, resulting in poor design and costly remediation.

Professionals must learn to recognise that disabled people are the experts in what is required to achieve Independent Living, and engage with individuals on an equal basis and in a meaningful way.

“Because I had the confidence, I got my own home, I got a full time job, plus I do a lot of volunteering work with People First groups. People First has given me the confidence to speak up about the issues of people with disabilities, representing groups and travelling more independently on my own on public transport and getting to meetings in different parts of Wales”

Sophie

Priority actions

We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to lead on ensuring that all public bodies:

- provide information in accessible formats, including British Sign Language (BSL)
- distribute accessible information effectively through a variety of communication channels within the community
- provide Disability Equality Training to all public service staff who interact with disabled people in any way.

We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to lead on ensuring that all local authorities:

- employ Access Officers.

DW would like to thank everyone who contributed to the discussions which lead to development of the Manifesto for Independent Living, including participants at the following events in 2010:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 28 April | Independent Living NOW! campaign launch, Cardiff Bay - attended by 70 organisations and individuals |
| 26 May | Independent Living NOW! campaign briefing, Gwynedd - partner organisations: CIL de Gwynedd, Arfon Access Group |
| 28 June | Independent Living seminar, Wrexham
- partner organisations: Centre for Disability Studies, Glyndwr University, AVOW (Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham) |
| 7 July | Independent Living NOW! campaign briefing, Powys
- partner organisations: Disability Powys, Dewis Centre for Independent Living |
| 23 July | Independent Living Round Table, Caerphilly
- attended by: Age Cymru, All Wales People First, Carers Wales, Guide Dogs, Learning Disability Wales, MS Society Cymru, RNID, Wales Council for the Blind, Wales Council for Deaf People |
| 10 August | Independent Living NOW! campaign briefing, Swansea - partner organisation: Swansea Association for Independent Living (SAIL) |
| 18 September | Independent Living NOW! campaign briefing, Havorfordwest - partner organisations: Young Voices for Choices, Pembrokeshire Access Group. |

07-03-2011 British Association of Social Workers

Dear Naomi,

Further to Rhodri's email on the 3rd March, I have consulted with the BASW Cymru committee on the petition and they believe that as social workers they believe it is important that BASW support any measures that enhance the independence of people with a disability, and would therefore like to add their support to the petition.

My Deputy Chair, Carol Davies, also made the following comment which you may like to consider:

'I know this decision to stop ILF is worrying many people in receipt of the benefit as the care that they receive will inevitably change. I'm afraid that benefits are not my forte but my limited knowledge is such that I will argue the need for a replacement benefit to continue the purchase of care to enable choice of provision and continued independence. My concern (shared with many colleagues) with ILF is that the majority of carers providing this care to vulnerable adults, paid by ILF, are not CRB checked, supervised or trained.'

Unfortunately I wasn't able to get the views of very many members at such short notice. If you can forward any further requests direct to me in future I will ensure we get a wider audience.

Kind regards,

Sarah Starbuck
Administrator
British Association of Social Workers, Cymru

14. P-03-293 Adolygu Cod Derbyn i ysgolion

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni, yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i adolygu Cod Derbyn Ysgolion yn arbennig gan fod y Cod presennol yn gwahaniaethu ar sail cydraddoldeb rhwng plant sydd ar gallu i siarad Cymraeg (Paragraff 2.26) a phlant sydd a ffydd neu grefydd (Paragraff 2.39). Hefyd mae angen adolygu a newid y polisi i adael i blant oedd mewn meithrin mewn ysgol Gymraeg gael blaenoriaeth ar gyfer y dosbarth derbyn..

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-293.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Y Cynghorydd Arfon Jones

Nifer y llofnodion: 32

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 28 Medi, 16 Tachwedd 2010 a 11 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Maent wedi'u cynnwys isod.

Leighton Andrews AC/AM

**Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg & Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-293
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/00120/11

Christine Chapman AM

Christine.chapman@wales.gsi.gov.uk

26 January 2011

Dear Aine

Thank you for your further letter of 14 January 2011 in your capacity as Chair of the Petitions Committee relating to the response from Councillor Arfon Jones, the petitioner, to my original response to his petition about Welsh medium education and possible amendments to the School Admissions Code.

Further to my original reply, and as indicated in it, the Welsh Assembly Government is obliged to ensure that the law as contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA 1998) is adhered to in Wales. Section 99 of the SSFA effectively prohibits selection by ability, whilst section 99 (5) (b) of that Act states that "“ability” means either general ability or ability in any particular subject or subjects.”

A child able to communicate in Welsh is clearly in possession of an ability in the acquisition of language (in this case, Welsh), much as would be the case were they to have an ability in any other language. We consider that to put in place oversubscription criteria which favour those who can communicate in a particular language, or indeed at all, would therefore amount to selection by ability. The Welsh Assembly Government therefore reflects this position in paragraph 2.26 of the School Admissions Code where it instructs admission authorities that they must not adopt an oversubscription criterion which selects pupils on the basis of ability or aptitude, including the ability to speak Welsh.

I would like to emphasise, as I did in my original reply, that it is the duty of Local Authorities (LAs) to provide sufficient schools of suitable types to meet the needs of local communities. They must therefore assess parental demand for different types of schools, and seek to meet that demand, with due regard for efficiency. Should demand for Welsh medium education grow, as we hope it does, it will be for LAs to identify that demand, and organise schools in their area accordingly, preferably in such a way that the situations exemplified by the petition rarely arise.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8129
Correspondence, Leighton.Andrews@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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I do not agree that the provisions regarding oversubscription criteria contained within the School Admissions Code in themselves prevent Welsh-speaking children from accessing Welsh language education, or indeed stop them from proceeding from nursery to compulsory provision in the same school. What they do, rather, is to provide a level playing field for *all* children, regardless of mother language or education setting prior to compulsory school age, to access education in the language medium of their parents' choice.

Whilst it may be that, in a given situation, a child at nursery may fall foul of over-subscription criteria because there are others entering compulsory education at that time who score against the lawfully-set criteria more highly than they do, we would nonetheless expect that suitable provision would be made available to them elsewhere, through the medium of Welsh if that is their parent's preference. Clearly, if the parents then chose not to take up that provision, that would be a matter for them.

With respect to the interplay between oversubscription criteria relating to proximity and any potential criteria in relation to nursery attendance, I believe that your correspondent's point is that the criteria could be so ranked that parents in the immediate locality who had placed their children in the nursery would take priority over those who had done the same but lived a greater distance away. I am not convinced that such an arrangement would work in practice, however, even were it not to fall foul of the provisions regarding equality of access that I have outlined above and in my previous reply.

Finally, in his response, Councillor Jones appears to imply that it is possible to reserve a place at a school shortly after a child is born. Whilst I understand that in the private sector such enrolment can occur, in respect of the maintained sector the Admissions Code describes a child as having been "allocated a place" when an application form has been completed by the parent and notice has been given in writing by the admission authority that a place has been allocated. In respect of a normal year of entry (i.e. reception or year 7), this process usually commences in the year before that in which the child will be admitted, certainly not at birth or shortly thereafter.

I trust that this further information provides clarity in relation to the further issues raised by Councillor Jones.

Yours sincerely


Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning

from early years settings. That provision is universal, applying equally to those going into any reception class from any nursery class regardless of language.

As to religious faith, admissions can only be based on that as a criterion in the case of a school designated as having a religious character under appropriate equality and education legislation. So here again, the emphasis on admissions to schools not having a religious character is intended to achieve an equitable set of criteria. The latter point is what underpins the Code - all admissions should be considered against a range of objective criteria so that all expressing a preference for admission to school are treated in the same way.

On that basis, it is difficult to argue against its provisions and to support any revision on the basis of what appear to be a specific set of local circumstances around admissions to some schools in a particular locality. WLGA therefore feels that revision of the Code is not warranted.

P-03-305 Statutory School Libraries

The petitioners in this case wish to see an acceptance by the National Assembly for Wales of the principle that school libraries will become statutory provision run by suitably qualified staff, and calls for the preparation of legislation and appropriate consultations.

School libraries were last inspected by Estyn on a thematic basis in 2002, at which time 15% of schools had unsatisfactory arrangements.

Whilst that specific report was some years ago, the new Common Inspection Framework and Guidance in place since 2010 includes the following requirements for those making judgements when inspecting schools :-

- in terms of the school's physical environment, inspectors should have regard to whether "...[there are] enough resources that are well matched to pupils' needs" and establish whether there is a "stimulating and well-maintained learning environment";
- they will also look at how the school supplements and enriches the curriculum; and of particular importance here:-
- sources of evidence will include "availability of learning resources, including library provision, and access by pupils & staff to an appropriate range of books, ICT resources, practical equipment and audio-visual materials to support learning & teaching during and outside of school hours"

This is of course a statutory provision. WLGA is of the view that as school libraries are the subject of inspection, and given the fact that legislation as proposed has cost, staffing and, in some cases potential space implications for schools and local authorities, their management and function is really a matter of best practice and its application, and should remain so.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Peter Fox
WLGA Spokesperson on Lifelong Learning & Skills
Leader, Monmouthshire County Council

15. P-03-295 Gwasanaethau Niwroadsefydlu Paediatric

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni sydd wedi llofnodi isod yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gydnabod ac i ddarparu gwasanaethau ar gyfer adsefydlu plant sydd wedi cael anafiadau i'r ymennydd. Ar hyn o bryd nid oes cyfleuster yng Nghymru i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth hanfodol hwn. Er gwaetha'r ffaith bod ysbyty penodol ar gyfer plant yn cael ei adeiladu yng Nghaerdydd, nid oes darpariaeth o hyd wedi'i chynnwys yng nghynllun yr ysbyty hwnnw.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-295.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Kyle's Goal

Nifer y llofnodion: Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan Kyle's Goal. Casglodd deiseb gysylltiedig â hi 9128 o lofnodion.

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 29 Mehefin 2010, 13 Gorffennaf, 30 Tachwedd 2010 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan Bwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd Arbenigol Cymru a'r deisebydd ac maent wedi'u cynnwys isod.

295.



GIG | Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
NHS | Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

Your ref/eich cyf:
Our ref/ein cyf: MR/CR
Date/dyddiad: 2nd March 2011
Tel/ffôn: 01443 443443 ext 8128
Fax/ffacs: 02920 807854
Email/ebost: Cerilan.Rogers2@wales.nhs.uk

Christine Chapman AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mrs Chapman,

I am writing in response to your letter received on 3rd February with regards to Neuro Rehabilitation Services.

In the first instance I would like to confirm that the Plan received by WHSSC from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board in relation to Neuro Rehabilitation Services continues to be progressed through the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) financial planning process.

WHSSC are holding a workshop with representatives from all seven Health Boards on Monday, 28th February 2011 to review the schemes that WHSSC are recommending are incorporated into the Annual Plan. We hope that after this workshop WHSSC will be able to produce an annual plan that will be signed off by the WHSSC Joint Committee at the end of March.

I would like to reassure you that WHSSC continues to work with Cardiff & Vale University Health Board to ensure that patients have access to the services they require.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Cerilan Rogers
Director Tertiary and Specialised Services

Welsh Health Specialised Services
Committee
Unit 3a
Caerphilly Business Park
Caerphilly
CF83 3ED

Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd Arbenigol Cymru
Uned 3a
Parc Busnes Caerffili
Caerffili
CF83 3ED

Chair/Cadeirydd: Professor Mike Harmer
Director of Specialised and Tertiary Services: Dr Cerilan Rogers

Dear Mrs Chapman

PETITION: P-03-295 Paediatric Neuro-Rehabilitation Services

Thank you for your letter of 26 January informing me of the recent consideration of the petition at the last committee meeting on the 25 January, seeking my views on the information gathered so far as well as the adequateness of the support Kyle has received to date.

I appreciate the work the committee has done in seeking further information from the Health Minister and various other organisations. As I am sure the committee is aware this information has been sketchy at best.

However, as admitted in the WHSSC response, upon Kyle's return from the Childrens Trust in Tadworth, despite receiving interim funding, there were difficulties in recruiting staff and this led to some elements of care, that were originally planned, not being provided. This was an issue I raised in my letter to the committee in November, which I have reproduced below and is in my view an admission of inactivity by the WHSSC:

'The Ministers response stated that specialist care such as that provided at the Childrens Trust in Tadworth would continue to be utilised and at present Kyle is receiving his second period of rehabilitation at the facility in Tadworth. This is following three months of rehabilitation at the University Hospital of Wales of a care package recommended by the Childrens Trust at the University Hospital of Wales, a care package agreed by the Minister in a meeting I had with her on the 20 April but was not delivered as per the specifications set out by the Childrens Trust'.

The WHSSC in their letter confirm that they have been supporting Kyles stay at the Childrens Trust in Tadworth but this is not an accurate reflection of the situation as at present the WHSSC is not funding Kyles stay in Tadworth and this is being funded by Health and Social Services due to WHSSC withdrawing their funding of Kyles stay in Tadworth on the 25th January.

The care package for Kyle when he returns home has not yet been formally confirmed or outlined in writing and this is indicative of communication problems between organisations and as a consequence Kyle has had to remain in Tadworth and I have been informed that Kyle will be returning home permanently on the 16 March. At present I am expected to perform the role of a carer when Kyle returns which was not agreed when I met with care providers previously as I work full time so that I can provide a level of normality, as best as possible given the situation that Kyle and I face.

I would like to raise an issue which ties in with the petition 'National Strategy on Independent Living' (reference P-03-288). The Deputy Minister for Social Services in response to this petition refers to the Direct Payments Scheme which empowers individuals to make their own choices as to how and when the care arrangements to meet their assessed needs are delivered. At present Direct Payments are not available in Wales under the Health Act 2009, it is my understanding that a pilot scheme for health direct payments is running in England and I would urge the Welsh Assembly to consider commencing the powers within Wales to allow for Health Direct Payments or too at least

conduct a pilot in to its feasibility in Wales. The option of Direct Payments are not available to me at present but the introduction of them would reduce the over reliance and subsequent red tape on certain services and provide myself with more autonomy in arranging care for Kyle.

With the committee meeting on the 15 March being the final meeting before the dissolution of the committee are you able to provide any guarantees that this petition will continue to be taken forward by the new petitions committee following the Assembly elections?

Yours sincerely

Katherine Simmons

16. P-03-296 Awgrymiadau annheg ar fenthyciadau i fyfyrwyr

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i wrthod cynigion annheg Grŵp Prifysgolion Russell i orfodi graddedigion i ad-dalu benthyciadau i fyfyrwyr yn gyflymach ac ar gyfradd fwy serth.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-296.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Mr Cerith Rhys Jones

Nifer y llofnodion: 146

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 28 Medi a 16 Tachwedd 2010.

Y diweddaraf: Bydd y Pwyllgor yn ystyried y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y ddeiseb hon.

17. P-03-298 Cyllid ar gyfer darparu adnoddau Cymraeg ar gyfer pobl â dyslecsia yng Nghymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ariannu Dyslecsia Cymru fel y gall y mudiad ddatblygu rhai o'r adnoddau a argymhellir yn Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu (Gorffennaf 2008 a'r adroddiad dilynol ym mis Hydref 2009) 'Cymorth i bobl â Dyslecsia yng Nghymru', gan gynnwys prawf sgrinio Cymraeg, adnoddau pwrpasol a phriodol Cymraeg ac hefyd cyllido costau llinell gymorth rhadffôn Dyslecsia Cymru.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-298.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Dyslecsia Cymru

Nifer y llofnodion: 151

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 28 Medi, 16 Tachwedd 2010, 11 Ionawr 2011 a 25 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y deisebwyr ac Estyn. Maent wedi'u cynnwys isod.

atod i:- Michael Davies
Prif Weithredwr

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

11. 2. 2011

Amwyg Rhodri.

E ddesib - Dysleccia Cymru. P- 03-298

Yn dilyn ein sgurs yn gynharach yn yr wythnos, amgaf
mwy o dystiolaeth yr holltan'r elusen eu gyflwyno yn
ysgrifenedig i'r Pwyllgor Ddesibau.

Y mae un dogfen yn gopi o ymateb y Gweinidog Adlysg,
Sgiliau a Dysgu gyda oes - Jane Davidson. A.C i gwestion
a ofynnwyd gan Janet Ryder A.C. (17/5/2006) ynghyd â
dalpariaeth asen yn y Gymraeg ar gyfer dysleccia.

Fel y nodir, mae y Gweinidog yn canabwyntio ar y ffarth
bod cysondeb rhwng y Gymraeg a Saerueg i fod yn nod
gofynnio y Ddeddf Iaith Gymraeg 1993, ynghyd â gwasanaethau
a dalpariaeth Adlysgiedd. Mae hi hofyt yn son am atgyfwrthiad
o hyn yn "Iaith Pawb" - sydd yn cytuno bod holltan plant (e hieni)
sydd ag Anafder Dysgu ychwanegol yn yr iaith o'i deuis.

Nid yn sabwynt yr Adran DCORUS a Llywodraeth Cymru
yn ymateb ar hyn o bryd yn y modd y maent yn ymateb i'n
cais am gyllid i ddatblygu profion ac atroltan Cymraeg, ac
awgrymiadau yn yr Adlysgiedd ar dysleccia yng Nghymru (2008 a
2009) yn gydymffurfio a hyn a nodir gan Jane Davidson. A.C.



BWRDD YR IAITH
GYMRAEG • WELSH
LANGUAGE BOARD

GwirVol

Estyn Llaw



Tybet felly, a yd y sefbynt sydd yn cael eu gymryd,
yn tolli delft guleid?

amgareaf helyd, gofian a ddon e bost a dderbyniwyd
gennyng oddiwlth thensi yn ymruent a diffng dalpariaeth
Gymraeg ar gyfer dyuleesia.

Rwy'n sicr nad yd hyn yn rhyubeth mae y Cynullid
Cenedlaethol a'r Pwyllgor Meistr ac Adlysg yn ei
gydnobod, ac yn hollt dlyuet adroddidan tebyg am
y' hyn sydd yn delyddt medu aurdodolau.

Mae y ddon thient - oherdyd eu bod yn gyfbot
bod y llythyan e-bost yn mynt, fod ar gael ar drefn
y Cynullid a'r llywodraeth am i'u hensau a cyferied
i fod ar gael i'r cyhoedd, rhag ofn y bydd ymotib
yn erbyn eu plant, na yn yr ysgol neu gan yr aurdodolau
adlysg plotta.

A unwech chi gadarnhau derbyn yr oherbiaeth hyn, fel y
mestaf gadw copi ar y ffral, ac edrychaf ymlen
at glyued y drakodaeth ac ymotebion y Jwsnidog ac
Ectynglyn a'r sefyllfa Waltham a'r modd y mae y
Gymraeg yn cael eu thrin.

yn ddiffnawt.

Michael Davies (Prif Weithredur - Sijdd Sir Fodhal)

MR. Rhodri Wyn Jones
Pwyllgor Deisebau
a'r Pwyllgorau'r Cynullid Cynullid Cenedlaethol Cymru

**WRITTEN ASSEMBLY QUESTION
TABLED ON 17 MAY 2006
FOR ANSWER BY THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, LIFELONG
LEARNING AND SKILLS
ON 24 MAY 2006**

Janet Ryder (North Wales): Following the transfer of responsibility from DFES to the Minister: a) how does the Minister intend to redraw guidelines for the assessment of students with a disability to ensure students will be assessed through the medium of Welsh if they so wish, and b) what assessment has the Minister made of the need to develop suitable material and suitably qualified staff to enable assessment of students with a disability in Welsh. (WAQ46958)

Jane Davidson:

The Welsh Language Act 1993 requires that the Welsh and English languages should be treated equally in relation to the provision of services to the public in Wales. In their dealings with children and their parents all statutory bodies must fulfil any requirements imposed on them by the Act, and adhere to the policies contained in their Welsh Language Schemes and Welsh Education Schemes. This is further reinforced by 'Iaith Pawb' our National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales (2003) which acknowledges the right of pupils and parents of pupils with additional learning needs to receive educational provision in the language of their choice.

LEAs must have regard to meeting the needs of pupils with SEN in accordance with parental preference for Welsh medium or English medium education and educational support provision. Parents who wish their children

Page 2 of
Jane Davidson Reply
to Janet Ryher 24/5/2006

to receive their education through the medium of Welsh have the right to express their preference under the Education Act 1996. LEAs and Governing Bodies are under a duty to have regard to any preference expressed by parents. When assessing a child's needs it is appropriate to assess the child in the preferred language of either English or Welsh, and steps should be taken to ensure that all those involved in this process are made aware of the pupil's language needs.

The SEN Code of Practice gives clear guidance on provision and services which should be available in the Welsh language or bilingually. Statutory advice from the Welsh Language Board has been provided to local education authorities to this effect.

In 2002 the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Language Board jointly commissioned Bangor University to conduct extensive research into Welsh Medium and bi-lingual education for children and young people with additional learning needs. The results of this research was published in the "Acknowledging Need" report which sets out a number of recommendations to improve Welsh Medium and bi-lingual education for children and young people.

Part 1 of ELL Committee Policy Review of SEN which considered early Identification and Intervention recommends that we publish a timetable for implementing the recommendations of the 'Acknowledging Need' report. The Action Plan to take forward the recommendations of Acknowledging Need has now been produced and published on www.learning.wales.gov.uk.

For the period 2003-05 the Welsh Assembly Government has provided a total of £16,000 to Swansea LEA for the translation of the "All Wales Reading Test" and the production of a corpus of Welsh medium texts (launched in February 2005). We are currently funding further work by the All Wales Reading Group in adapting the reading tests for use by partially sighted pupils. These materials are available to all LEAs in Wales.

Page 3
Jan Dalrymple

In September 2005 a Welsh Language adviser was seconded to the Assembly for a term to undertake a scoping exercise of all available bi-lingual SEN resources across Wales. It is hoped that materials will now be made available to teachers and support staff through the National Grid for Learning website to enable teachers and practitioners to share resources.

Finally, we have recently made available £90,000 over 3 years for the development of Welsh specific resources by the School of Psychology at Bangor University. This is ground breaking work in the development of Welsh language assessment tests in speech, language and verbal reasoning skills which are language specific not merely a translation of English materials.

Dogfen ③

To: Mrs Christine Chapman.
Chairman-Petitions Committee.
National Assembly For Wales.
Cardiff Bay.
Cardiff.

3rd February 2011.

Dear Mrs Chapman.

Re e-petition number:P-03-298 –Financing Welsh language provision through Dyslecsia Cymru for people with dyslexia.

The shock announcement that 40% of children leaving Primary school are below their chronological reading age comes as no surprise to me. Welsh Medium Schools have an added difficulty of needing to address the reading of both languages. However I see NTAs given this job of hearing children read. What is needed is specially trained teachers who are able to understand the prerequisites of reading and who can work on these sub skills to move the child on. I know my own son told me his NTA had told him that she understood Welsh. She was the person he received to accelerate his Welsh reading. It obviously did not register as a concern that she was not a fluent Welsh Reader.

This unfortunately is the case. There is no specialism given to dyslexic children and the schools are employing newly qualified cheaper teachers. They are not looking for specialism or experience. When children fail to achieve to read to their chronological age they should be given more specialist teaching not less. Until all our schools in Wales recognise dyslexia as a Learning Disability then we will continue to fail these children and others who would benefit from being taught by Dyslexia friendly methods.

I welcome the DEST and the Welsh Dyslexia Screening Test (Junior) which Dyslecsia Cymru is seeking funding to develop, especially as it one of the recommendations in the Enterprise and Learning Committee's Report of 2008 and 2009—accepted by the Minister. It is long overdue. I do not feel some schools will welcome it as it will highlight deficiencies which schools have been happy to leave unaddressed. I also welcome their aim to develop a new Welsh language phonics-based Teaching program for both the Primary and Secondary school.

We need no better advocates than Prof Angela Fawcett and David Reynolds.

Bwrdd Yr Iaith and Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg ought to be behind this 100%. How can anyone endorse Welsh Education without addressing this gross inequality?

From a parent of a child with dyslexia, attending Welsh medium Secondary education

Christine Chapman AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

23 February 2011

Dear Ms Chapman

Thank you for your invitation to provide views to the Petition Committee on the petition 'P-03-298 Financing Welsh language provision for people with dyslexia'. In particular, you asked for Estyn's views on the support available for pupils with dyslexia, especially through the medium of Welsh.

We have considered our existing evidence base from inspection and are now able to provide you with our views. I attach a summary of relevant inspection evidence and our conclusion to inform the Petition Committee's discussions on the 15 March.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything in the attached paper that is unclear.

Yours sincerely



Ann Keane

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of
Education and Training in Wales

Response following request for funding by Wales Dyslexia to develop resources for improving Welsh-language provision for pupils with dyslexia

Estyn was asked to provide views on a petition which called for:

“...the National Assembly for Wales to encourage the Welsh Government to fund Wales Dyslexia so that it can develop some of the resources that were recommended by the Enterprise and Learning Committee’s report, entitled Support for People with Dyslexia in Wales, which was published in July 2008, with a follow up report published in October 2009. These include a Welsh-language screening test, dedicated and appropriate Welsh-language resources and meeting the costs of the free Wales Dyslexia helpline.”

In particular, you asked for our views on the support available for pupils with dyslexia, especially through the medium of Welsh.

This response is based on reports on the provision for additional learning needs inspected during the last six-year cycle, in:

- local authority education services;
- Welsh-medium and English-medium primary schools; and
- Welsh-medium and English-medium secondary schools.

Local authorities

The capacity of local authorities, in the field of additional learning needs, to perform well and to improve performance varied significantly during the last cycle. Of the twenty-two local authorities, only a few were awarded Grade 1¹ regarding their performance at the time of the inspection and a minority were awarded Grade 1² regarding their prospects to improve performance. Around half of the authorities were given Grade 2 for existing performance and for their ability to improve performance. A minority were given Grade 3 for their performance and a few for their ability to improve. All authorities had a grade 3 or above for both indicators. Please refer table below for further details.

¹ In the last cycle, Estyn used a four-point grading scale to judge the performance of local authorities: Grade 1 – good with outstanding features; Grade 2 - good features and no important shortcomings; Grade 3 – good features outweigh shortcomings; and Grade 4 - some good features, but shortcomings in important areas.

² In the last cycle, Estyn used a 4-point grading scale to judge the prospects for improvement in local authorities inspections: Grade 1 improvement prospects are good, with significant improvements already in place; Grade 2 improvement prospects are good, with no major barriers; Grade 3 some good prospects, but barriers in important areas; Grade 4 many important barriers to improvement

Percentage of local authorities at each grade during the last inspection cycle 2006-2010 (additional learning needs)

Additional Learning Needs	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
How good is the local authority's performance?	18%	46%	36%	0%	100%
Will the local authority's performance improve?	36%	50%	14%	0%	100%

It has not been an expectation to report specifically, during inspections, on dyslexia but an evaluation of the provision for pupils with specific learning difficulties or dyslexia has been included in many local authority reports. A minority of local authority reports mention the availability of Welsh-medium provision for pupils with dyslexia.

In five individual authorities where good provision for pupils with dyslexia was noted:

- good initiatives promoted the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs in mainstream schools, including dyslexia-friendly schooling;
- access was available to a very good range of training which included accredited courses with national bodies in specialist areas including dyslexia;
- the training and advice provided on dyslexia gave teaching staff confidence and expertise to support pupils without requesting additional advice and resources from the authority;
- developing schools' capacity to meet pupils' specific learning difficulties was having a positive impact;
- several good initiatives aimed at promoting the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs included specific learning difficulties in mainstream primary and secondary schools; and
- one authority was working in collaboration with Bangor Dyslexia Services to cater for the needs of pupils with specific learning difficulties.

In five individual authorities where we noted there was bilingual provision for pupils with dyslexia:

- good bilingual resources had been developed for pupils with learning difficulties. (The authority's Dyslexia Friendly Schools and 'Catch Up' materials were outstanding examples of work that has helped to build the capacity for mainstream schools to meet pupils' special educational needs);

- the Dyslexia Friendly School initiative within one authority had enabled both Welsh-medium and English-medium schools to train teachers and learning support staff to support pupils with specific learning difficulties;
- high-quality, bilingual, professional advice and support was available for children and young people with the full range of additional learning needs; and
- bilingual additional learning needs services and provision were available to all schools.

In three local authorities who were finding it difficult to provide Welsh-medium support for pupils with dyslexia:

- access to Welsh speaking 1:1 support and specialist advice was not always available;
- resources at each key stage could not match the specialist resources available through the medium of English; and
- an extensive range of training in the field of additional learning needs through the medium of Welsh could not be offered.

Secondary Schools

Evidence from inspection reports, for all years from 2005 – 2010, for Welsh-medium and English-medium secondary schools show that the percentages who achieved Grade 1³ for Key Question 4 and three aspects of Key Question 4 (4b, 4.10 and 4.11) were all higher in Welsh-medium schools. The percentages of schools who achieved either Grade 1 or Grade 2 for Key Question 4 and the 3 aspects were also higher in Welsh-medium schools.

Table showing the percentage of Welsh-medium and English-medium secondary schools from 2005 -2010 at each grade for key question 4 along with three aspects of key question 4.

	Grade 1 WM	Grade 1 EM	Grade 2 WM	Grade 2 EM	Grade 3 WM	Grade 3 EM	Grade 4 WM	Grade 4 EM
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported (KQ4)	69	57	27	37	4	6	0	1
The quality of provision for additional learning needs (4b)	20	16	73	65	8	18	0	1
How the school effectively diagnoses individual learning	43	33	55	64	2	3	0	0

^{3 3} In the last cycle, Estyn used a five-point grading scale to judge the performance of schools: Grade 1 – good with outstanding features; Grade 2 - good features and no important shortcomings; Grade 3 – good features outweigh shortcomings; Grade 4 - some good features, but shortcomings in important areas; and Grade 5 - many important shortcomings.

	Grade 1 WM	Grade 1 EM	Grade 2 WM	Grade 2 EM	Grade 3 WM	Grade 3 EM	Grade 4 WM	Grade 4 EM
needs (4.10)								
How the school provides additional support to meet individual needs (4.11)	57	50	39	43	4	7	0	1

WM – Welsh-medium / EM – English-medium

In three Welsh-medium secondary schools where Grade 1 had been awarded to Key Question 4 and all three aspects, individual and group support from a specialist teacher was of very good quality for learners experiencing specific learning difficulties and well-planned support and provision was based on expert analyses of pupils' individual needs.

Primary Schools

On the contrary, evidence from inspection reports, for all years from 2005 – 2010, for Welsh-medium and English-medium primary schools show that the percentages who achieved Grade 1 for Key Question 4 and three aspects of Key Question 4 were significantly lower in Welsh-medium schools. The percentages of schools who achieved either grade 1 or grade 2 for Key Question 4 and the 3 aspects were similar in Welsh-medium and English medium primary schools.

Table showing the percentage of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary schools from 2005 -2010 at each grade for key question 4 along with three aspects of key question 4.

	Grade 1 WM	Grade 1 EM	Grade 2 WM	Grade 2 EM	Grade 3 WM	Grade 3 EM	Grade 4 WM	Grade 4 EM
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported (KQ4)	38	51	58	45	4	4	0	1
The quality of provision for additional learning needs (4b)	15	29	75	61	9	9	0	1
How the school effectively diagnoses individual learning needs (4.10)	28	47	68	50	4	3	0	0
How the school provides additional support to meet individual needs (4.11)	29	47	65	46	6	7	0	1

WM – Welsh-medium / EM – English-medium

In primary schools where Grade 1 had been awarded to Key Question 4 and all the aspects the schools diagnosed and assessed pupils' needs very effectively and all support staff had received training in dyslexia.

Overall conclusions

Our previous and new inspection frameworks do not require inspectors to inspect the support available for pupils with dyslexia, through Welsh or English, as a specific line of enquiry. As such, our inspection reports only identify specific good practice or issues where inspectors feel this is noteworthy. This means that it is difficult to draw many overall conclusions from our current evidence. Estyn had proposed undertaking a remit in the next financial year about the quality of Welsh-medium support for pupils with additional learning needs in 2011-2012 but this was not supported by DCELLS.

However, the evidence we have does suggest the following conclusions.

1. A similar proportion of English-medium and Welsh-medium schools (primary and secondary) were judged to be at least good in their support for pupils with additional learning needs. Within Welsh-medium schools, the quality of support for pupils with additional learning needs is better in secondary schools than primary schools and in particular a greater proportion of secondary schools receive grade 1. The reverse is true for English-medium schools. This suggests that any additional investment in Welsh-medium support and resources to support pupils with additional learning needs should be prioritised towards primary schools.
2. There are examples of good resources, training and support, including bilingual materials, across Wales. However, there are still examples where these are not sufficient and are not equivalent to the range available in English. As such, there may be a requirement for additional investment to broaden the range of resources available.
3. In particular, a few local authorities do not have the capacity to provide the same level of training and support in relation to additional learning needs, including dyslexia, through the medium of Welsh as they do through the medium of English.
4. Through our inspections we did identify schools where teachers made very good use of the available resources, support and training to make outstanding provision for pupils with additional learning needs and specifically dyslexia through the medium of Welsh. However, there would appear to be too much inconsistency across Wales in how teachers share practice and make use of available resources. As such, there is scope to improve how well existing resources and expertise are used across Wales.

18. P-03-305 Llyfrgelloedd Ysgol Statudol

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i dderbyn mewn egwyddor y bydd yn rhoi statws statudol i lyfrgelloedd ysgolion, yn sicrhau bod staff cymwys yn eu rhedeg ac yn paratoi'r ddeddfwriaeth angenrheidiol mewn ymgynghoriad â'r undebau llafur priodol.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.cynulliadcymru.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-305.htm>

Cynigiwyd gan: Alison Bagshaw

Nifer y llofnodion:

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 16 Tachwedd 2010 a 11 Ionawr 2011.

Y diweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth, y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a'r Gymdeithas Llyfrgelloedd Ysgol. Maent wedi'u cynnwys isod.

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-305
Ein cyf/Our ref AFJ/00042/11

Christine Chapman AM

committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Christine,

2 February 2011

Thank you for writing to me on the issue of the petition for statutory school libraries and asking me to provide details of local authority obligations for library provision.

It is the statutory duty of local authorities to provide a "comprehensive and efficient library service" under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. As the Minister for Heritage I am required to "superintend and promote the improvement of the public library service provided by local authorities".

To monitor the provision of a comprehensive and efficient service the Welsh Assembly Government introduced a framework of public library standards in 2002. The fourth framework of standards (*Maintaining a Valued Service: The Fourth Framework of Welsh Public Library Standards 2011-14*) will be launched in April 2011. My officials in CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales (a policy division of the Welsh Assembly) monitor and oversee the delivery of the Welsh Public Library Standards.

Since their implementation the Standards have had a positive impact on library services in Wales with many library authorities across Wales demonstrating significant improvements in the areas of service assessed by the standards frameworks.

The provision of a Schools Library Service by local authority public library services is not a statutory responsibility. However public library services across Wales do provide support for schools to develop their library provision. The level of service and the mode of delivery varies substantially across Wales. It varies from the establishment of the North East Wales Schools Library Service, which serves schools in four local authorities, to the public library providing services only to the schools who have opted-in to the service in their particular authority. The funding of the School Libraries Services also varies, some receive central funding from the local authority, whilst others rely on schools buying into the service following the delegation of school budgets.

The information above highlights the need to undertake baseline research as mentioned in the letter from the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning. It would be advantageous to include School Library Services as part of the baseline research into the provision of school libraries. It would seem that the most recent report specifically about

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

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correspondence.alun.ffred.jones@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

school libraries in Wales is the Position Paper on School Libraries and Learning Resource Centres in Primary and Secondary Schools in Wales produced by Estyn in 2002.

The Welsh Assembly Government has invested heavily in modernising public libraries as part of the £10.5m Libraries for Life strategic libraries development programme. This has resulted in more attractive and flexible children's and teenage areas in many public libraries and has enabled more libraries to attract school visits to their libraries to promote reading activities and raise literacy levels.

I hope this information is of assistance to you and the Petitions Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Ffred Jones', written in a cursive style.

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage

Leighton Andrews AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg & Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-305
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/00119/11

Christine Chapman AM

Christine.chapman@wales.gsi.gov.uk

21 January 2011

Dear Usse,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 January about the Welsh Assembly Government's proposed National Literacy Plan.

Following my announcement in May and my launch of the National Literacy Plan, in July I asked my officials to draw up a list of actions as a framework for immediate implementation. Budgets were re-prioritised to take effect from September 2010.

We are now in the process of implementing those actions and planning future actions.

Yours ever

Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning

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

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from early years settings. That provision is universal, applying equally to those going into any reception class from any nursery class regardless of language.

As to religious faith, admissions can only be based on that as a criterion in the case of a school designated as having a religious character under appropriate equality and education legislation. So here again, the emphasis on admissions to schools not having a religious character is intended to achieve an equitable set of criteria. The latter point is what underpins the Code - all admissions should be considered against a range of objective criteria so that all expressing a preference for admission to school are treated in the same way.

On that basis, it is difficult to argue against its provisions and to support any revision on the basis of what appear to be a specific set of local circumstances around admissions to some schools in a particular locality. WLGA therefore feels that revision of the Code is not warranted.

P-03-305 Statutory School Libraries

The petitioners in this case wish to see an acceptance by the National Assembly for Wales of the principle that school libraries will become statutory provision run by suitably qualified staff, and calls for the preparation of legislation and appropriate consultations.

School libraries were last inspected by Estyn on a thematic basis in 2002, at which time 15% of schools had unsatisfactory arrangements.

Whilst that specific report was some years ago, the new Common Inspection Framework and Guidance in place since 2010 includes the following requirements for those making judgements when inspecting schools :-

- in terms of the school's physical environment, inspectors should have regard to whether "...[there are] enough resources that are well matched to pupils' needs" and establish whether there is a "stimulating and well-maintained learning environment";
- they will also look at how the school supplements and enriches the curriculum; and of particular importance here:-
- sources of evidence will include "availability of learning resources, including library provision, and access by pupils & staff to an appropriate range of books, ICT resources, practical equipment and audio-visual materials to support learning & teaching during and outside of school hours"

This is of course a statutory provision. WLGA is of the view that as school libraries are the subject of inspection, and given the fact that legislation as proposed has cost, staffing and, in some cases potential space implications for schools and local authorities, their management and function is really a matter of best practice and its application, and should remain so.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Peter Fox
WLGA Spokesperson on Lifelong Learning & Skills
Leader, Monmouthshire County Council

4/2/11



School Library Association

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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20 January, 2011

Dear Ms Chapman,
P-03-305 Statutory School Libraries

I was delighted to see that the Welsh Assembly was taking time to look at the question of school libraries and the possibility of statutory status for the library and librarian. The benefit of an effective school library and librarian are amply demonstrated in the wonderful good practice celebrated annually in the School Librarian of the Year Award – see our website at www.sla.org.uk/slya.php for examples.

Our concern is that students in schools without school libraries will not have access to a wide range of learning and reading resources to support their teaching and learning if there is no operable library. A good library and, crucially, a librarian can be a huge benefit to a school as evidenced by recent research nationally, and this is supported by other international research too¹. I have also included with my letter a recent article from *School Librarian* (our quarterly journal), which gives a thorough background to current research into school libraries and their contribution to student attainment and motivation.

A recent survey of school libraries nationally (2010), carried out by School Libraries Group of Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)² has shown that a qualified librarian makes a contribution to Information Literacy teaching in schools – as opposed to an unqualified librarian (i.e. others below) -

82% of qualified librarians focused on finding information compared with 75% of the others; and 67% on selecting information, compared with 60%. The difference becomes more marked in relation to evaluating information (52% compared to 38%) and making sense of information (54% compared to 35%).

The recent School Library Commission report, chaired by Baroness Morris and published by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) with the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) found that, although they had investigated the school library scenario with an open mind to look for new and creative methods of delivering the library experience they came to the

¹ Ofsted (2006) – Good School Libraries: Making a Difference to Learning. HMI2624
School Libraries Work (2008) – Research Foundation Paper. 3rd edition. Scholastic Library Publishing.

² CILIP School Libraries group (2010) - School Libraries in the UK: a worthwhile past, a difficult present - and a transformed future. available at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/school/pages/news.aspx>

conclusion that there was no better way than through a school library and librarian³. The commission acknowledge that the picture is by no means consistent across school libraries but that there are many libraries exhibiting excellent practice.

The commission was supported by a piece of research by NLT⁴ which surveyed 17,000 students. One of its key findings was –

There was a very strong relationship between reading attainment and school library use, with young people who read below the expected level for their age being almost twice more likely to say that they are not a school library user. Conversely, those who read at or above the expected level were nearly three times more likely to say that they are school library users

Surely this is one of the strongest reasons to have a school library and librarian, especially in relation to any literacy policy that may be in development. I do hope that you will find these compelling arguments to consider statutory basis for school libraries and librarians.

If I can be of any assistance in furthering your discussions please do not hesitate to get in touch. The SLA wholeheartedly supports the petition to have school libraries with qualified librarians in every school. We believe that every pupil is entitled to effective school library provision. The SLA is committed to supporting everyone involved with school libraries, promoting high quality reading and learning opportunities for all.

Best wishes



Tricia Adams
Director, School Library Association
tricia.adams@sla.org.uk
Tel: 07532 231946

³ School Libraries: A Plan for Improvement. 2010. NLT & MLA available at http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/policy/nlt_policy/school_library_commission

⁴ Linking Libraries and Literacy. Christina Clark. 2010. NLT available at http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/policy/nlt_policy/school_library_commission

Effective School Libraries

Evidence of Impact on Student Achievement

by Lynn Barrett

Reprinted from

The
School Librarian
volume 58 number 3



There must be very few school librarians today who are not aware of the considerable number of studies, particularly in the USA, that show a positive correlation between an effective school library and academic achievement. However, in our very busy days, it is not always easy to track down the research and analyse what it means in terms of our own practice. Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to do just that and, although none of what I shall summarise here is new, hopefully it will be useful to have it pulled together in one place.

Before delving into facts and figures, it is important to define why we need empirical evidence of the effectiveness of school libraries. Most discussions about them start from the position that they are a good thing, therefore they must be supported. However, for any argument to hold water, the starting point must instead be the needs of today's students in today's educational landscape. From there it is necessary to unpick how the school library contributes to the fulfilment of those needs and then to underpin the resulting conclusions with research evidence.

The characteristics of 21st century education have been articulated by many and continue to evolve. However, in order to achieve within this developing context and beyond, it is accepted that students need:

- Reading literacy
- Information literacy
- Technological literacy
- Skills for personal knowledge building
- Oral literacy and numeracy

Research evidence from the USA, Canada and Australia shows that where school libraries are resourced effectively and managed by a qualified librarian with educational expertise, all of the above are fostered and student academic achievement on standardised tests is higher than in schools where these conditions do not exist. Studies over the last 50 years have supported this conclusion, but increasing numbers of investigations and improved methodology over the past decade have brought new credence and immediacy to this positive relationship. While Australia and Canada have each conducted one substantial impact study and several smaller ones, since 2000 nineteen major studies have been completed across the United States. They are largely based on a quantitative research model developed by Keith Curry Lance, originally conducted in Colorado in 1993 and again in 2000. An important alternative approach was taken by Dr. Ross Todd in Ohio in 2004 where qualitative information was gathered from students and faculty. All of this research is summarised in *School Libraries Work!*,¹ and the information below from the

USA, unless otherwise stated, is taken from that document. It is important to note that the research methodology in all of these studies allowed for socio-economic issues and the results are not explained away by:

- Parents' lack of education
- Poverty
- Minority status
- Teacher-pupil ratio
- Per-pupil expenditure.

In identifying effective school library programmes, all of the studies assumed the presence of a qualified school librarian. In the USA, school librarians are generally known as school library media specialists and are granted credentials in individual states to fill the role of school librarians. Many states require a dual qualification in teaching and librarianship, and those that do not require instead a master's degree in librarianship with a specialisation in education. In Canada and Australia, teacher-librarians are dually qualified. In the UK, librarians qualify with a bachelor's degree and there is no specialist route for school librarians. An expertise in education must be acquired on the job and through CPD. Regardless of route, all school librarians need to:

- Be highly qualified professionals
- Be learning specialists
- Work collaboratively with teachers
- Be information mediators
- Teach the skills of information literacy within the context of the curriculum
- Be reading experts
- Inspire, encourage, create, and model high quality learning experiences
- Be leaders in schools, regarded on a par with teaching colleagues.

With all of this in mind, an examination of the research by theme, rather than by geographical region, may prove helpful. The following will look first at the impact of school libraries on reading, then on overall achievement, and finally at the impact of four factors that are key to achieving an effective school library. These are:

- Professional librarian with educational expertise
- Information literacy teaching
- Integration into the curriculum through librarian / teacher collaboration
- Support of heads and policy makers.

Issues of stock, spending, access and planning are also key and feature in the survey carried out by Information Management Associates in collaboration with the School Libraries Group of CILIP and published on 20 July 2010. Key findings include the greater likelihood that professionally qualified librarians will be more integrated into the school management structure than those who are not, that where there is a Schools Library Service it makes a positive difference to the effectiveness of the school library, and, worryingly but unsurprisingly, there is a general trend for school library budgets to be shrinking.

Reading

OECD

In 2000, an OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) survey of 265,000 students in 35 countries showed a consistent relationship between reading enjoyment and higher student achievement.² We all know that students need to be able to read in order to be successful, but the fact that enjoyment is significant will be new to many in education. The survey showed it to have positive associations not only with literacy but with maths and science results as well. The study also showed that reading enjoyment is more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status.

Canada

In 2006 the province of Ontario conducted research with 50,000 students in over 800 publicly-funded elementary schools.³ The presence of a teacher-librarian in these schools was the single strongest predictor of reading enjoyment. Also, schools with teacher-librarians were shown to have higher reading scores by 8%. In the OECD survey of 2000, Canada was one of the highest scoring nations for reading enjoyment, but the Ontario study showed that over the period from 2001 to 2006 there was a steady decline in reported reading enjoyment. This was mirrored by a decline in the number of teacher-librarians during the same period due to cuts in funding.

USA

Delaware, 2005: Students in grades 3 – 5 saw the school library as strongly helping them to enjoy reading more.

Michigan, 2003: In elementary schools with the highest reading scores, teachers and students were four times as likely to visit the library on a flexible basis, compared to the lowest scoring schools.

Minnesota, 2003: 66.8% of schools with the highest reading test scores in grades 3 – 8 (ages 8 – 13) were where the librarian worked full time. Reading achievement was also related to increased school library programme spending.

North Carolina, 2003: School library programmes in elementary, middle and high schools had a significant impact on standardised reading and English tests.

Pennsylvania, 2003: The relationship between adequate staffing – at least one full-time credentialed school librarian and one full-time support staff – and reading scores was both positive and statistically significant.

Australia, 2006⁴

In a replica of the Ohio study led by Dr. Ross Todd, 81.1% of students in 46 schools across Queensland and Victoria said

that the library had contributed to their progress in reading and 81.4% indicated that the library helped them to enjoy reading.

Overall Achievement

USA

Delaware, 2005: 98.2% of students were helped in their learning process by the school library when they had access to a full-time school librarian, information literacy instruction, flexible scheduling and networked ICT.

Missouri, 2003: Students in schools with effective school library programmes score 10.6% higher than those in schools without effective school libraries.

New Mexico, 2002: Achievement test scores rise with the development of school library programmes.

Ohio, 2004: Todd's qualitative study of 13,123 students aged 8 to 18 from 39 schools revealed 99.4% of them believe the library and its services help them to become better learners. In addition, 879 faculty members saw the school library as key to learning.⁵

Texas, 2001: Library collections, staffing, technology and interaction with teachers and students all have a positive association with Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TASS) at elementary, middle / junior high and high school levels.

Wisconsin, 2006: The impact of library media programmes explained a positive variance of 7.9% to 19% in reading and language arts performance at the high school level.

Canada

In addition to the positive reading results mentioned above in the 2006 Ontario study, reading enjoyment was strongly linked to overall student achievement.

Australia⁶

Students saw a clear link between the input of the school library and the grades they were awarded on projects and assignment work. 84.1% indicated that the school library had helped them learn how to work independently and over 90% said the library had helped them do their school work better. In all areas of this research, the impact of the school library and the librarian were higher in years 5 and 6 (10 to 12 year olds) than they were in years 11 and 12. Suggested reasons for this finding could be that skills are embedded in early years and practised independently in later years and that a crowded curriculum in later years leads to fewer opportunities for inquiry learning. This could lead to a strong argument that a greater emphasis on primary school libraries needs to be made.

Key Elements of Effective School Libraries

USA

A summary of the research shows that achievement scores rise 10% - 20% when:

- Number of professional librarians and support staff increase
- Quality information flows from the library into classrooms and homes

Features

- Sustaining budgets keep the information rich environment current and of high quality
- School librarians promote reading
- School librarians collaborate with teachers
- School librarians teach information literacy
- School librarians are leaders in their schools.

Canada

In the 2006 Ontario study, the presence of a teacher-librarian was the single strongest predictor of reading enjoyment. At all levels, the research showed that the presence of a teacher-librarian correlated with improved student achievement in reading scores.

Australia

In the 2004 – 2005 study that replicated Todd's qualitative Ohio study, 99.4% of respondents (6,676) indicated that school library services, including the teacher-librarian, helped them with their learning both in and outside of school

England

In 2004, Ofsted surveyed 32 primary and secondary school libraries.⁷ Inspectors observed that the best school librarians had a positive impact both on teaching and on student learning. 'The impact of a knowledgeable and well qualified librarian on all aspects of the service, including the quality of the stock, should not be underestimated.' (p 18)

In 2001, Williams and Wavell produced a report for Re:Source, the Council of Museums, Libraries and Archives, which had been commissioned by the DfES to look at the impact of school libraries on student learning.⁸ The report noted that in England, pre-service training and CPD for both teachers and librarians should be considered to further both groups' understanding of learning in libraries. The report also noted the reluctance of many school librarians in England to engage in an instructional role and the delivery of information literacy. While some embraced this aspect of their work, others did not. Although this research is now dated and more emphasis has been placed on this aspect of a school librarian's work in recent years, it should not be ignored. It is still clear that school librarians in the UK are not required to have educational training and some are not able to access, for reasons of support or funding, CPD opportunities that can give them the curricular and pedagogical expertise that they need.

USA – in addition to the summary above:

Alaska, 2000: The more often students received library/information literacy instruction from library media specialists, the higher their test scores.

Ohio: One aim of the 2004 Ohio study by Todd study was to unpick the school library's role in knowledge building. Student responses made clear that they saw the library as a dynamic rather than a passive source of support, teaching them how to conduct research effectively through:

- Identifying key ideas
- Evaluating, analysing and synthesising information
- Developing personal conclusions

'The study shows that an effective school library, led by a credentialed school librarian who has a clearly defined role in information-centered pedagogy, plays a critical role in facilitating student learning for building knowledge.'⁹

New Jersey, 2006:¹⁰ A study of how students learn through a library based guided inquiry unit revealed two levels of research outcomes. The first was an additive approach in which students sought more and more facts and their output remained at a descriptive level. The second was an integrated approach in which students were able to synthesise, build explanations, draw conclusions and reflect. While the latter is at a higher level, which may be down to student ability or assignment construction, both approaches led to greater subject knowledge and students' perceptions that they knew more as they progressed through the unit.

Australia, 2004–2005:

In the Queensland and Victoria studies,¹¹ the school library was identified as helping students to develop a focus and define learning tasks. Assistance with concept mapping software was particularly noted as helpful. Also, the teacher-librarian was instrumental in developing students' search strategies and teaching them how to select relevant information, learn to synthesise and acknowledge sources. Older students noted the importance of the library and the teacher-librarian in more advanced skill development and their resultant deeper understanding of curriculum content.

Canada, 2002:

Public Libraries in Edmonton reported that the decline of school libraries and teacher-librarian posts was resulting in a 30% increase in public library circulation, but that students were exhibiting a significant decline in research skills.¹²

England, 2004:

Ofsted Inspectors observed a great deal of information literacy teaching. However, the quality of many of the sessions was poor. The lessons were superficial and not integrated into the curriculum. The survey found many weaknesses in students' understanding of effective use of information. 'This limited their achievement in reading and, more generally, in learning across subjects'. Crucially, inspectors concluded:

- Schools did not think carefully enough about the skills pupils would need to continue with their studies beyond school, either in further and higher education or in the workplace. Stronger provision needed to be made for independent research and learning.¹³

USA

Ohio: A study undertaken through Kent State University over a three year period, 2003–2005, looked at the impact of instructional collaborations between classroom teachers and school librarians.¹⁴ Benefits for both parties were listed as development of professional skills and a more profound insight into pedagogical processes. Teachers noted greater understanding of information literacy skills and an appreciation of library resources. Students were motivated and focused, learned the content and improved their information literacy skills.

Indiana, 2007: In 2006, 293 school library media specialists, 99 principals and 422 teachers responded to surveys in *The Indiana Study* by Lance, et al.¹⁵ Results showed that both elementary and high schools averaged better test results when:

- Teachers and librarians collaborated and were both familiar with the state document¹⁶ that correlates information literacy and academic standards
- Principals valued the librarians and teachers saw them as fellow teachers.

Colorado, 2000: Elementary school students with the most collaborative teacher-librarians scored 21% higher on statewide reading tests than those with the least collaborative teacher-librarians.

England, 2001

Ofsted Inspectors noted that none of the schools observed felt that they were successful in involving all subjects in collaborative work with the school librarian in delivering information literacy skills. Collaboration was left to a proactive librarian and interested departments. Senior managers were not sufficiently involved in making this happen.

All of the research studies noted above found that the support of head teachers was crucial to the development of effective school libraries at all levels. Government policy makers also played a huge role in establishing standards and recommending good practice that guided schools to commit to development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, several things need to be done to improve the development of school libraries in the UK. Librarians need to be trained to become school librarians, well versed in pedagogy and curricula. Only by developing an expertise in the educational arena will they be able to collaborate successfully with teachers, be valued as leaders in their schools and fulfill their potential to contribute to the academic success of their students. Teachers need to receive training about the skills of information literacy and the techniques of effective inquiry learning where students are challenged to engage with the glut of sources available to them, and to question, select, analyse and synthesise until they are able to discern paths to new understandings and knowledge construction.

Claims have been made that the research presented here is not applicable in England. However, an analysis of the data from the Ohio study and its replica in Australia, shows only a few percentile points difference in student responses to the 48 questions posed. This is despite curricular, pedagogical and cultural differences and would suggest that the conclusions of these studies are relevant to English education and should be considered seriously in the planning of future developments.

Underpinning all of the above are heads and policy makers who need a vision of what effective school libraries can do for the education of our young people. Headteachers need to be made aware of the impact effective programmes can make on student achievement through spotlighting school libraries at their conferences and through their own training. Policy makers need more UK research to inform them and to give them substantive reasons to encourage development.

Armed with the evidence of international research, we can all hold meaningful conversations within our schools and work towards developing the vision that we know is achievable. Hopefully the findings of the School Library Commission, to be published in the autumn of 2010, and the results of current UK research, will help to chart a path forward and actions can be implemented that will bring about effective school library programmes in all of our schools.

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