



# Priorities for the Sixth Senedd

## RCP Cymru Wales response

Through our work with patients, consultants and trainees, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is working to achieve real change across hospitals and the wider health and care sector in Wales.

Our 40,000 members worldwide, including 1,450 in Wales, work in hospitals and the community across 30 different clinical specialties, diagnosing and treating millions of patients with a huge range of medical conditions. We campaign for improvements to healthcare, medical education and public health.

We organise high-quality conferences and teaching that attract hundreds of doctors every year and our work with the Society of Physicians in Wales showcases best practice through poster competitions and trainee awards.

We work directly with health boards, trusts and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), we carry out hospital visits, and we collaborate with other organisations to raise awareness of public health challenges.

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## Priorities for the Sixth Senedd

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### Key recommendations

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Cymru Wales is calling for:

1. A wide-ranging cross-Senedd committee inquiry into tackling health inequalities

### Our response

#### A cross-Senedd committee inquiry into tackling health inequalities

##### Tackling avoidable illness with cross-government action on health inequalities

We need a cross-government approach to tackling inequalities that contribute to avoidable illness: not just in physical health, but mental health, end-of-life care, housing, education, transport, rural healthcare, digital access and income, among other social determinants of health. Along with colleagues across the voluntary sector in Wales, we are therefore calling for an inquiry across all Senedd committees on tackling health inequalities in Wales. Meaningful progress will require coherent efforts across all sectors to close the gap and an inquiry undertaken by all Senedd committees will enable committees to consider what action each Welsh Government department is doing to tackle the root cause of health inequalities and put forward recommendations around where improvements are needed.

#### Further reading

*'Making the difference' – WNHS Confed Alliance (April 2021)*

*'The case for a cross-government strategy' – Royal College of Physicians (September 2021)*

For more information, please contact:

#### **Lowri Jackson**

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