

Cafodd yr ymateb hwn ei gyflwyno i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol ar Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)

This response was submitted to the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)

HSC PSS 24

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Fforwm Pensiywyr Cymru | Pensioners Forum Wales

Blaenoriaethau cychwynnol a nodwyd gan y Pwyllgor Initial priorities identified by the Committee

Mae'r Pwyllgor wedi nodi nifer o flaenoriaethau posibl ar gyfer ei waith yn ystod y Chweched Senedd, gan gynnwys: iechyd y cyhoedd a gwaith ataliol; y gweithlu iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, gan gynnwys diwylliant sefydliadol a lles staff; mynediad at wasanaethau iechyd meddwl; arloesi ar sail tystiolaeth ym maes iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol; cymorth a gwasanaethau i ofalwyr di-dâl; mynediad at wasanaethau adsefydlu i'r rhai sydd wedi cael COVID ac i eraill; a mynediad at wasanaethau ar gyfer cyflyrau cronig tymor hir, gan gynnwys cyflyrau cyhyrsgyberbydol.

The Committee has identified several potential priorities for work during the Sixth Senedd, including: public health and prevention; the health and social care workforce, including organisational culture and staff wellbeing; access to mental health services; evidence-based innovation in health and social care; support and services for unpaid carers; access to COVID and non-COVID rehabilitation services; and access to services for long-term chronic conditions, including musculoskeletal conditions.

C1. Pa rai o'r materion uchod ydych chi'n credu y dylai'r Pwyllgor roi blaenoriaeth iddynt, a pham?

Q1. Which of the issues listed above do you think should be a priority, and why?

Pensioners Forum Wales believes that domiciliary and social care should be free at the point of need, funded through general taxation. Wales should move towards an integrated National Health and Care Service. An integrated service would provide a seamless progression through health and care for service users and clearer individual pathways for service providers to implement.

There are concerns that information and advice is becoming less accessible for many older carers who are not online. The committee should ensure that all support services for carers provide information more widely and in accessible formats for all users, especially those who



do not have access to online information. Improvements in this area will ensure the future physical and mental wellbeing of unpaid carers.

The COVID crisis required some services to move to remote or online delivery. Unfortunately, this has left those who are not digitally included isolated and unable to access some essential services. Pensioners Forum Wales acknowledges that remote consultations are helpful and some older people appreciate the facility; however, a blended approach that takes into account individual need must be implemented to ensure that everyone receives appropriate access to health services.

Blaenoriaethau allweddol ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd

Key priorities for the Sixth Senedd

C2. Yn eich barn chi, pa flaenoriaethau allweddol eraill y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd mewn perthynas â:

- a) gwasanaethau iechyd;
- b) gofal cymdeithasol a gofalwyr;
- c) adfer yn dilyn COVID?

Q2. In your view, what other key priorities should the Committee consider during the Sixth Senedd in relation to:

- a) health services;
 - b) social care and carers;
 - c) COVID recovery?
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Gwasanaethau iechyd

Health services

Dignity should be the norm – this includes respect for privacy, support for eating, drinking and using the bathroom, independent advocacy services in hospitals, and the choice of a male or female assistant to help with care.

Recruitment of sufficient Welsh-speaking staff in predominantly Welsh-speaking areas. Older people must be consulted in decision-making around their treatment and care.

Gofal Cymdeithasol a gofalwyr

Social care and carers

Improve access to information and advice for unpaid carers to ensure that all are aware of their rights and the available support and services.

Integration of health and care services and investment in the social care system to ensure sufficient capacity as needs increase.

Professionalisation of the care sector to ensure the integrated system is protected for the future and offers care workers higher pay, ensuring retention of staff and a higher quality service.

Adfer yn dilyn COVID

COVID recovery

Focus should be on reducing the waiting lists for routine operations such as knee and hip replacements. Older people waiting for these operations become more isolated as time goes on,

leading to decreased physical and mental well-being and increased possibility of having to move into residential care.

Front line services must not prioritise remote consultations – services must be person-centred and appropriate for the service-users' needs. Pensioners Forum Wales recognises that phone or online consultations are a useful tool in some circumstances, but they should not be the default as we move into recovery. Those who are not online and those who prefer face-to-face consultations must not be relegated to receive a second-class service.