

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 72

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Ty Bronna

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 cyhyrysgerbydol.

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?

During the last sixteen months it has become evident how much Wales relies on its health and social care systems and workers. I therefore believe that the below issues should be prioritised to ensure, behaviours, resources and practise are not overlooked for the future in this critical sector:

Health and social care workforce, including organisational culture and staff wellbeing;

Typically, health and social care is, for the many, low paid employments, but the local authority and organisations places the highest responsibilities on these workers. It has been evident that in recent times without such a dedicated and passionate workforce within the Wales the most vulnerable would have been even more at risk. Either from the physical health effects of Covid-19 or possible safeguarding issues they could have been exposed to, without a professional



overseeing their care. Health and social care is a very demanding vocation and often one that is given the thanks and recognition it is worthy of. I believe that for staff in this sector to be truly appreciated and recognised it is time that cultures within organisations and staff's well-being is prioritised for the people that very often put others needs before themselves as a daily routine. If the pandemic has done anything it is to highlight the most vulnerable within society, which maybe a person or group has never been exposed to or thought of before. Therefore, it is positive that issues such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence etc have now been revived in the media and are being again considered alongside new policies and initiatives. However, I think as a Senedd committee it is now time to consider the needs of those who support the most in need and identify their vulnerabilities and how as a country we can look to protect them, advocate for them and which will in turn will recruit future workforces, in that that they will be appreciated and will be looked after. As previously stated, the health and social care sector is a vocation for most and not simply a way of paying for bills. I believe if there were benefits provided to these workers, it would provide them with the motivation and strength to continue in a very demanding and often thankless role, in where we all in society might find ourselves needing and relying on such people one day. My own staff team have been incredible during this difficult time that is not yet over but has evolved. They worked tirelessly front line throughout the whole pandemic and did so, even knowing there was a real risk to life not just to them, but for their own families they are responsible for.

Access to mental health services;

Ty Bronna is a supported housing organisation for 16–21-year-old male and females, deemed homeless by the local authority. The very nature of our service users will mean that most of them will suffer with poor mental health and need to access services to support them, as some point through their homelessness journey. Before Covid-19 it was already identified not just by staff, but by young people, that CAMHS and young people's mental health services were often not fit for purpose, with young people waiting long periods to be assessed or often discharged or transitioned to PMT or adult services as they had more funding/resources to support them post 18 years old. The pandemic only sought to magnify the huge burden that CAMHS has in supporting vulnerable young people with their mental health. However, during the worst stages of Covid-19 sessions were either cancelled or rearranged through face-to-face meetings. Young people typically struggle to communicate and have the necessary skills to voice their feelings. So, for a young person not even able to rely on their body language to talk for them and for a professional not to be able to see this, often prevented the young people from carrying through with appointments.

This was only exasperated by young people being prevented from visiting family, friends or the local community due to national and local lockdowns. Also, for those who didn't have family to isolate with, this only sought to magnify that they were very much alone in dealing with a world crisis. Staff were available to offer their time to these young people to talk through their fears of the virus, their sadness of being unable to see or having no relatives to support them. However, such issues run deep and far outweigh the type of support that housing staff are typically

expected to provide. Although, this is being identified more and more that young people are being supported by those around them not typically trained to deal with mental health difficulties, but are often all there is, due to the difficulties in young people being able to easily access the mental health services they need.

evidence-based innovation in health and social care;

The pandemic had also uncovered that already bustling health and social care services are unable to provide any more support to those who need specialist support and care. Therefore, evidence-based innovation from the pandemic can look to identify what services need to be modified, developed or created in order to address the needs of an ever changing health and social care demographic.

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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Adfer yn dilyn COVID

COVID recovery

Covid-19 has placed much pressure and expense on to health and social care services, so the long-term plan of how services are expected to evolve would be beneficial. Especially third-sector organisations that rely on funding to provide their services.