

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/LG/3553/12

Professor Mark Drakeford AM
Chair
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National Assembly for Wales
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February 2013

Dear Mark,

Following the General Scrutiny Session of the Health and Social Care Committee of 5 December, you wrote to me requesting updates on:

- the provision of neuroscience services in Wales, including a response to a letter you provided from David Maggs, Wales Development Manager, Headway, and;
- the Welsh Government's review of capital expenditure.

The Adult Neuroscience Review includes recommendations relating to the neuro-rehabilitation issues raised by David Maggs. These are being taken forward by Health Boards through their local mechanisms. Overall, progress in implementing the recommendations relating to neuro-rehabilitation has been slower than most of the other recommendations. However, I am assured, by both Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the Directors of Planning Group for Mid and South Wales, progress is being made as set out below.

The North Wales Neurosciences Network has recently established a Rehabilitation Workstream. The aim is to co-ordinate and provide patients with the appropriate level of rehabilitation provision, support and care within the community in which they live and, therefore, the Health Board has established a rehabilitation referral bureau.

Work has been completed in Mid and South Wales to deliver recommended service models for neuro-rehabilitation services and Health Boards are now working to implement them. Improvements so far include better access to in-patient rehabilitation in Mid and South Wales.

Steps have also been taken to ensure the Wales Neurological Alliance is kept fully informed of progress. These arrangements have been strengthened with the Alliance being invited to attend the Health Boards' Directors of Planning meeting next month.

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In addition, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has recently submitted an Outline Business Case, seeking investment to support the long term future delivery of specialist neuro and spinal rehabilitation for Mid and South Wales. This is currently being considered.

Finally, I have decided it is appropriate to develop a Delivery Plan for Neurological Conditions. This will clearly set out the Welsh Government's expectations for the future delivery of services.

As we discussed at Committee in December, one of the recommendations of the mid year review is to reconsider the NHS capital programme to ensure it is clearly aligned and supports the vision of healthcare set out in "Together for Health."

This work is currently being undertaken. However, our ability to progress this review is driven by the need to take account of emerging Health Board service change plans. Given NHS organisations are at different stages of their engagement and consultation processes, the review needs to be structured and phased appropriately. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Hywel Dda Health Board both announced their responses to their consultation exercises in recent weeks. We are now in a position to work with the Health Boards to identify and consider their priorities for strategic investment and to ensure the schemes we are being asked to support will deliver in terms of providing safe, accessible and sustainable services.

The four organisations in the South Wales Programme have completed their engagement exercises and the health boards are currently planning to commence the formal consultation in early May. Powys Teaching Health Board is currently considering the responses to its consultation for services in South East Powys. It would not be appropriate to pre-empt the outcomes to these consultations. However, we are continuing to work closely with organisations so we are well placed to move forwards once the consultation responses are announced.

Regards



Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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