

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-400
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00450/13

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22nd April 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April regarding petition P-04-400 on the adoption and implementation of the *NICE Quality Standard for Service User Experience in Adult Mental Health*.

NICE Quality Standards, including in this specific instance, reinforce recommendations made in previous NICE guidance and the NHS should already be taking account of them in the routine delivery of services to their patients.

The consideration of one *life area* as a minimum standard in care and treatment planning under the *Mental Health (Wales) Measure (Part 2)* was set to acknowledge plans designed to address need might, in many instances, be relatively uncomplicated: depending on an individual's circumstances, a plan might not need to address more than one area.

It is important therefore the planning process is not unnecessarily burdensome or bureaucratic if resources are not to be diverted from actual treatment and care. It is, therefore, important to strike a balance between adherence to a process and the realisation of meaningful outcomes for service users. The setting of this minimum requirement does not in any way prevent Care Co-ordinators from considering the fullest range of issues that might impact on an individual's mental health.

The service user experience will inform any potential changes and as part of the duty to review the *Mental Health (Wales) Measure* it is our intention to assess the service user experience of care and treatment planning, specifically whether Care And Treatment Plans (CTPs) satisfactorily address all eight *life areas* and are proven to be sufficiently outcome- and recovery-focussed. Similarly, the review will consider evidence of meaningful engagement with, and consultation of both service users and their carers – and evidence of active service user involvement in the co-production of CTPs. We will also consider whether the need to address any additional *life areas* has regularly arisen.

Please note an inception report has also been produced which describes in some detail how the review will take place, and a copy of this document is available at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/reports/inception-report/?jsessionid=61EA3F2C23C8CF9825035427580BEB9A?lang=en>

The final report will be produced before January 2016.

Finally, the composition of NICE Advisory Panels is a matter for NICE itself to determine and neither the Welsh Government, nor the Department of Health in England, have any influence over these matters.

Best wishes

Mark.

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