

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MD/05279/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

16 November 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-587 - Establishing a clinic for ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia sufferers in South East Wales.

At the end of 2013 a Myalgic Encephalopathy/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) and Fibromyalgia (FM) task and finish group was set up to focus on the practical means of improving NHS services and patient experience.

The group has reported their recommendations to me and I wrote to the local health board (LHB) chairs on 16 September drawing their attention to the eleven recommendations made by the group including timescales for implementation and reporting requirements. I attach a copy of their report for your attention.

LHBs will be responsible for establishing a stakeholder group to support delivery of the recommendations, provide an action plan to improve services for patients and report annually on progress. The recommendations should provide the tools to:

- increase timely diagnosis, allowing effective care to commence promptly
- provide effective self management advice much earlier
- minimise the chances of people's conditions becoming severe and/or requiring increased health service resources
- streamline referrals, ensuring more efficient and economic use of resources
- improve the experience and outcomes for patients

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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An All-Wales Implementation Group is in the process of being formed comprising LHB clinical leads from a variety of different healthcare professionals including a paediatrician, third sector patient representatives and the Welsh Government to take the recommendations forward.

Best wishes,

Mark

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