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GOFAL A LLESIANT **GOGLEDD CYMRU**

**NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE**

Regional Partnership Board
Chair: Mary Wimbury

Date: 9th May 2022

FAO:
Mark Isherwood MS
Committee Chair
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Dear Mr Isherwood

Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee Care Home Commissioning Inquiry

Thank you for your letter of the 25th March 2022 to the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

We welcome the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee's inquiry into Care Home Commissioning for Older People, reflecting on the conclusions contained in the Auditor General's national summary report from December 2021, which considered issues arising from the review of Commissioning Older People's Care Home Placements in North Wales. We also note that the Committee intends to consider the issue from a national perspective, but welcomes further evidence from North Wales to inform the Committee's work.

As requested, please find, in Annex 1, the agreed* weekly care home fees for each local authority in North Wales for both 2021/22 and 2022/23. (**Please note that the fee noted for Gwynedd is subject to amendment in June 2022.*) Annex 2 contains the CHC core weekly fee rates for 2021/22 and 2022/23 confirmed by BCUHB.

As noted, we prepared a collective Management Response for each of the recommendations in the Audit Wales report on Commissioning Older People's Care Home Placements in North Wales, detailing our actions to meet these recommendations. A copy of the Management Response actions is given in Annex 3.

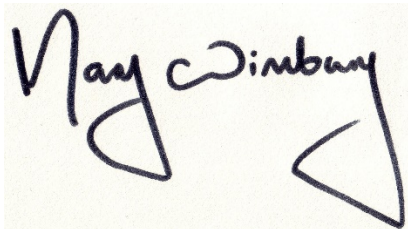
As part of the response to the Audit Wales Report, I understand the HB and LAs provided separately their view on a number of the issues that you note in your letter. Therefore, as you already have these, we do not have anything further to add. If you have not had sight of these please let me know and I will arrange for them to be sent to you.

As RPB Chair, I have also, in my professional capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Care Forum Wales, provided input your inquiry.

With regard to the implementation of the management response actions, as a region we will be looking in more detail into the matters that you highlight, including pooled budgets, removing complexity through the development of a regional care home commissioning strategy and associated delivery plan, as well as looking at the challenges that might inevitably arise from working within a national policy framework. Fundamental to our discussion will be consideration of the national policy drivers and how they can be implemented locally and regionally with minimum complexity.

As with all healthy partnerships, our members have slightly different perspectives on some of the matters highlighted in your letter. As I'm sure you will appreciate and expect, the region will now be discussing these further as we implement the action plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Mary Wimbury" in a cursive, slightly stylized font. Below the name, there are two large, simple, hand-drawn shapes that resemble the letters 'D' and 'W'.

Mary Wimbury
Chair of the NW Regional Partnership Board

Annex 1: Weekly care home fees for each local authority in North Wales - 2021/22 & 2022/23.

Denbighshire - Confirmed

Category of Home	21/22 Rate (including 21/22 LA Funded FNC)
Residential	£586.32
Residential EMI	£631.40
Nursing	£664.52
Nursing EMI	£702.97

2022/23 (incl. £7.48 21/22 LA Funded FNC)	£	%
	v 21/22	
£627.11	£40.79	6.96%
£695.51	£64.11	10.15%
£711.27	£46.75	7.04%
£774.77	£71.80	10.21%

Conwy - Confirmed

Category of Home	2021/22 Fee EXCL LA Funded FNC
Residential	£611.00
Residential EMI	£665.00
Nursing	£693.00
Nursing EMI	£733.00

LA FNC: £7.48 (21/22 LA FNC) + 3% = £7.70

2022/23 [Incl. £7.70 LA FNC]	£	%
	v 21/22	
£654.00	£43.00	7.04%
£714.00	£49.00	7.37%
£752.70	£59.70	8.61%
£792.70	£59.70	8.14%

Flintshire - Confirmed

Category of Home	2021/22 Fee EXCL LA Funded FNC
Residential	£607.00
Residential EMI	£632.79
Nursing	£658.55
Nursing EMI	£697.19

2022/23 [Excluding LA FNC]	£	%
	v 21/22	
£646.52	£39.52	6.51%
£675.17	£42.38	6.70%
£703.79	£45.24	6.87%
£746.72	£49.53	7.10%

Gwynedd – Confirmed **

Category of Home	2021/22 (including 21/22 LA Funded FNC)
Residential	£586.32
Residential EMI	£650.79
Nursing	£683.90
Nursing EMI	£722.33

2022/23 (incl. £7.48 21/22 LA Funded FNC)	£	%
	v 21/22	
£627.00	£40.68	6.94%
£695.00	£44.21	6.79%
£731.00	£47.10	6.89%
£774.00	£51.67	7.15%

**** PLEASE NOTE:** In Gwynedd, initial standard fees for 22/23 have been set with a clear understanding that further work is to be undertaken to determine the affordability and sustainability of paying higher fees. A report with a recommendation is due to be presented to the Council's Cabinet in June 2022 for a decision.

Mon - Confirmed

Category of Home	2021/22 Fee EXCL LA Funded FNC
Residential	£596.01
Residential EMI	£631.40
Nursing	£657.04
Nursing EMI	£715.07

2022/23 [Excluding LA FNC]	£	%
	v 21/22	
£636.80	£40.79	6.84%
£707.17	£75.77	12.00%
£703.79	£46.75	7.12%
£800.88	£85.81	12.00%

Wrexham - Confirmed

Category of Home	2021/22 (including 21/22 LA Funded FNC)
Residential	£608.72
Residential EMI	£634.81
Nursing	£668.15
Nursing EMI	£707.24

2022/23 (incl. £7.48 21/22 LA Funded FNC)	£	%
	v 21/22	
£646.52	£37.80	6.21%
£675.17	£40.36	6.36%
£711.27	£43.12	6.42%
£754.20	£46.96	6.61%

Annex 2: CHC core weekly fee rates – 2021/22 & 2022/23

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Continuing Healthcare General Rates 2021/22							
Locality	BCU HB General Nursing Rate 2020/21	FNC Inflation Estimate 2021/22 (£179.04 x 1%)	Local Authority General uplift 2021/22	BCU HB General Premium Payment 2021/22	BCU HB General Nursing Rate 2021/22	Increase in General Rate Per Week	% Increase
General Nursing Rate							
Anglesey	860.51	1.79	23.09	42.11	927.50	66.99	7.78%
Gwynedd	879.93	1.79	23.11	33.17	938.00	58.07	6.60%
Conwy	887.41	1.79	24.73	24.07	938.00	50.59	5.70%
Denbighshire	860.41	1.79	23.04	42.26	927.50	67.09	7.80%
Flintshire	850.78	1.79	26.91	48.02	927.50	76.72	9.02%
Wrexham	860.51	1.79	26.78	38.42	927.50	66.99	7.78%

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Continuing Healthcare EMI Rates 2021/22							
Locality	BCU HB EMI Nursing Rate 2020/21	FNC Inflation Estimate 2021/22 (£179.04 x 1%)	Local Authority General uplift 2021/22	BCU HB General Premium Payment 2021/22	BCU HB EMI Nursing Rate 2021/22	Increase in General Rate Per Week	% Increase
EMI Nursing Rate							
Anglesey	916.22	1.79	25.26	33.23	976.50	60.28	6.58%
Gwynedd	916.21	1.79	25.26	33.24	976.50	60.29	6.58%
Conwy	924.41	1.79	27.73	22.57	976.50	52.09	5.63%
Denbighshire	896.79	1.79	25.11	42.31	966.00	69.21	7.72%
Flintshire	886.94	1.79	29.39	47.88	966.00	79.06	8.91%
Wrexham	896.79	1.79	29.59	37.83	966.00	69.21	7.72%

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Residential Rates 2021/22				
Locality	Local Authority General Residential Rate 2020/21	Local Authority General Residential Rate 2021/22	Increase in Basic Rate per Week	% Increase
General Residential Rate				
Anglesey	576.00	596.01	20.01	3.47%
Gwynedd	566.30	586.32	20.02	3.54%
Conwy	586.00	611.00	25.00	4.27%
Denbighshire	566.31	586.32	20.01	3.53%
Flintshire	583.44	607.00	23.56	4.04%
Wrexham	585.72	608.72	23.00	3.93%

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Residential Rates 2021/22				
Locality	Local Authority General Residential Rate 2020/21	Local Authority General Residential Rate 2021/22	Increase in Basic Rate per Week	% Increase
General Residential Rate				
Anglesey	576.00	596.01	20.01	3.47%
Gwynedd	566.30	586.32	20.02	3.54%
Conwy	586.00	611.00	25.00	4.27%
Denbighshire	566.31	586.32	20.01	3.53%
Flintshire	583.44	607.00	23.56	4.04%
Wrexham	585.72	608.72	23.00	3.93%

Annex 3: Management Response to the Audit Wales report on Commissioning Older People's Care Home Placements in North Wales

Management response

Report title: Commissioning Older People's Care Home Placements – North Wales Councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Completion date: December 2021

Document reference: 2467A2021-22

Ref	Recommendation	Intended outcome/benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
R1	North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board need to ensure the consistent use of pre-placement agreements across the region.	Increased transparency of roles and responsibilities to support the contracting process. Additional level of service user protection.	Yes	<p>We are currently finalising the review of the North Wales PPA. A new PPA agreed with CFW should be in place by April 2022.</p> <p>Following this LA and HB commissioners will issue the new PPA to their providers and track providers who have signed and returned the PPA.</p> <p>We will also develop an agreed consistent approach and process for dealing with those providers who refuse to sign the PPA.</p>	Sept 2022	<p>Lead: Joint Chairs of Regional Commissioning Board</p> <p>Operational: Local Authority Commissioning Managers</p> <p>Health Board Commissioning Managers Regional</p> <p>Supported by: Business Manager – Commissioning & Workforce</p>

Ref	Recommendation	Intended outcome/benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
R2	The current approach for commissioning care home places can cause tensions between partners and result in poor value and poor service user experience. North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board need to work together to review local arrangements for commissioning care home placements to eliminate avoidable adverse impacts on service users, and each other.	Identification of organisational blockages within the process to aid resolution	Yes	<p>We will hold workshops with all Local Authority and Health board commissioners to review their current care home commissioning arrangements in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure all commissioners are aware of each other's processes - to identify and share process improvement ideas and learning - to identify common practice and why / where different commissioning practice and processes occur. 	Sept 2022	<p>Lead: Local Authority Commissioning Managers</p> <p>Health Board Commissioning Managers</p> <p>Supported by: Regional Business Manager – Commissioning & Workforce</p>

Ref	Recommendation	Intended outcome/benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
R3	Accountability is a cornerstone of public sector decision making. Governance arrangements need to scrutinise decisions and hold decision makers to account. North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board need to review and strengthen their partnership governance arrangements to ensure proper accountability and effective scrutiny.	Better accountability of people working in partnership by increasing transparency and opportunity for robust challenge and scrutiny of decisions by sponsoring organisations. This will also reduce the potential for external challenge and/or judicial review.	Yes	Review of RPB membership, terms of reference, accountability and decision making scope is currently underway. This will look at the link between local decision making and RPB decision making with a focus on how to ensure and evidence local decision making input in to the RPB's decisions and also how the RPB is accountable to local democratic structures in the Local Authorities and the Health Board.	Dec 2022	<p>Lead: Chair of Regional Partnership Board</p> <p>Operational: Head of Regional Collaboration</p> <p>Advice from: Regional Legal Service & Local Authority Governance leads</p>

Ref	Recommendation	Intended outcome/benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
R4	North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board through the Regional Commissioning Board need to develop a regionally agreed care home commissioning strategy and associated delivery plan.	A clear, agreed and approved approach for public sector partners in North Wales to address the major strategic challenges experienced both currently and projected in the longer term in relation to care home commissioning. Together with an approved plan detailing how they intend to get from where they are today to where they want to be in the future.	Yes	We will build on work undertaken to develop the Regional PNA and MSR documents and the Steering Group will remain in place to move forward with the themes from the PNA-MSR in to the Regional Commissioning Strategy for Care Home Commissioning. They will also be responsible for developing the delivery plan which will cover regional, sub-regional and local actions and link in to the local MSR and PNA documents / analysis.	March 2023	<p>Lead: Joint Chairs of Regional Commissioning Board</p> <p>Operational: MSR-PNA Steering Group Members</p> <p>Regional Business Manager – Commissioning & Workforce</p> <p>Local Authority Commissioning Managers</p> <p>Health Board Commissioning Managers</p>

Ref	Recommendation	Intended outcome/benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
R5	North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board need to review their commissioning arrangements for care home placements to ensure they fulfil their statutory responsibilities around the Welsh language, and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.	Clear and upfront consideration of statutory responsibilities around the Welsh language, and the Well-being of Future Generations Act in strategic planning of care home placements.	Yes	<p>The Mwy Na Geiriau Steering Group are already looking at way to improve staff confidence and capabilities in providing services in Welsh. Recruitment of Welsh speaking staff is a priority and a focus in the Regional We Care campaign.</p> <p>The Regional PNA-MSR Steering Group will build on their existing links with the Wellbeing Assessments and embed the delivery of the WFGA wellbeing goals in to their commissioning of care home placements and wider social care and community health provision.</p>	March 2023	<p>Lead: LA Directors of Social Care and Health Board Welsh Language Lead</p> <p>WFGA Goals = PNA_MSR Steering Group members</p> <p>Operational: Local Authority Commissioning Managers</p> <p>Health Board Commissioning Managers</p> <p>LA and Health Board Workforce Managers</p> <p>Supported by: Regional Business Manager – Commissioning & Workforce</p>

Responsible Officer / Key Leads

Regional Partnership Board	
RPB Chair	Mary Wimbury
Regional Commissioning Board	
Joint Chair of Regional Commissioning Board	Morwena Edwards and Clare Darlington
Local Authority Commissioning Managers	
Mon Local Authority	Bethan Williams / Iola Richards
Gwynedd Local Authority	Rhion Glyn / Hawis Jones
Conwy	Mark Bowler
Denbighshire	Lianna Duffy
Flintshire	Jane Davies and Dawn Holt
Wrexham	Victoria Bishop and Angharad Owen
Health Board Commissioning Managers	
Contracts and Commissioning	Tracy Pope
CHC Commissioning	Kath Titchen
Regional Collaboration Team	
Head of Regional Collaboration	Catrin Roberts
Regional Business Manager	Catrin Perry
Regional Legal Support lead	Lisa Jones [DCC legal services manager]
PNA-MSR Steering Group leads	
Mon	Emma Edwards
Gwynedd	Hawis Jones
Conwy	Mark Bowler
Denbighshire	Sue Hudson
Flintshire	Emma Murphy
Wrexham	Victoria Bishop
BCUHB	Wendy Hooson
Mwy Na Geiriau Steering Group members	
TBC	