



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1269
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01934/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
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2 August 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2022 seeking a response to the proposed outcomes put forward by the petitioners for an End of Life Care Programme. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I have responded to each of the main proposed outcomes below.

An increase in EOLC programme personnel within government and supporting NHS organisations, in line with other condition and disease areas. We would encourage the appointment of a full time Senior Programme Lead for the EOLC Programme

There are three Welsh Government staff with part of their roles dedicated to supporting the end of life care agenda. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer also provides oversight and direction to the programme.

We have also recently doubled the number of sessions that Dr Idris Baker, the national clinical lead for end of life care is able to provide, increasing the time he is able to spend supporting the national programme to two days per week.

In addition, the NHS Collaborative is strengthening the team that it has supporting the end of life care agenda with a new appointment to provide increased programme manager support, a new senior project support post and national nursing and AHP leads. A full-time bereavement lead will also be recruited.

Ringfenced funding for the development and delivery of the End of Life Care Programme for the next three years.

Welsh Government continues to provide over £10.5m to ensure that anyone requiring palliative and end of life care in Wales has equitable access to the best possible care and support. There are no plans to reduce this funding in the next three years.

We have delivered on our Programme for Government commitment to review voluntary hospice funding and have made an additional £2.2m available to Welsh hospices from 2022-23 on a recurrent basis. This is in addition to the £8.4m that we continue to invest every year to support specialist palliative care services across Wales.

Work on Phase 2 of the funding review including statutory and voluntary, specialist and generalist and the full age spectrum of children and adults is now underway. This phase will consider the models of provision, any geographical variation and an understanding of the value delivered by these services.

I have also recently agreed to maintain the £2m per annum that supports end of life care delivery in Wales for the remainder of the current Parliamentary term.

Publication of a rolling, three-year implementation/action plan for PEOLC in Wales. This will follow on from the publication of the Quality Statement due in Summer 2022.

Welsh Government does not plan to update Major Health Conditions Delivery Plans. These plans are being superseded by Quality Statements which set out our policy intent and what good services look like. They describe the outcomes and standards we expect to see in high quality, patient focussed services.

Health boards and trusts will be expected to set out how they will take forward quality statements through their integrated medium term plans (IMTPs). The various national programmes, networks and implementation groups will support the NHS organisations to do so through the development of enabling plans. This will include the work programme of the new National Programme Board for End of Life Care, which may take the form of an implementation or action plan.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services