

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dai Lloyd MS
Chair, Health Social Care and Sport Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

21 December 2020

Dear Dai,

I'm writing in response to your letter of 10 December 2020 regarding the successor arrangements for the major health condition delivery plans.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services announced in February that the cancer, heart conditions and stroke delivery plans would be replaced by December with successor arrangements. The Deputy Minister also confirmed that the other delivery plans (liver and respiratory disease, diabetes and neurological conditions, end of life care and critical care) would be extended by one-year in order to provide additional time to put in place successor arrangements. Unfortunately, the pandemic has drawn the relevant officials involved in these policy areas into supporting the pandemic response and also mitigating the impact of the pandemic on services covered by these delivery plans. It has also stopped related work on evaluating the impact of each of these plans.

I confirmed to the Senedd on 25 November that the successor arrangement for the cancer plan has been delayed but that I hoped to be in a position to publish a new approach in March 2021. I am considering if we can also publish the heart disease and stroke documents alongside this. Until that time, the current delivery plan approaches remain in place to guide NHS planning and national programmes of work. The successor arrangements to delivery plans are intended to set the medium-term direction for the development of specific clinical services and are not intended to set out how the NHS in Wales will recover from the pandemic.

The Deputy Minister signalled in February, and I confirmed in November, that the new approach to major conditions would need to fit in with and take advantage of the opportunities set out in A Healthier Wales. These include the development of the National Clinical Framework, an NHS Executive function and the potential for Quality Statements.

We have given significant thought and attention over the past two years to the strengths and weaknesses of the delivery plan approach. It is the consideration of these that has led our thinking in terms of developing a new format for the years ahead. I am keen that we

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

build on everything we have put in place in recent years but learn how the approach to date can be improved upon. My officials have been developing throughout the past year the concept of Quality Statements that will be underpinned by NHS implementation plans at clinical network level as part of the intended NHS Executive function. We have undertaken some preliminary engagement with stakeholders on the Quality Statement for Cancer and heart conditions but I look forward to setting out more detail in the coming months.

The successor approaches for those plans not replaced by March 2021 will be a matter for the new government to consider following the elections in May 2021.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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