

Vaughan Gething AM

Minister for Health and Social Services

Julie Morgan AM

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

15 October 2019

Dear Ministers

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21

Thank you both for agreeing to attend our meeting on 5 December to give evidence in connection with the Welsh Government's draft budget 2020–21.

To assist the Committee in our preparations, I would be grateful if you would provide information in relation to the matters set out in Annexe 1 to this letter, along with any other information that you believe will assist the Committee in its work.

It would be helpful if you could provide your paper in advance of our meeting, by **22 November**.

Yours sincerely



Dai Lloyd AC / AM

Cadeirydd / Chair



Annexe 1

Request for information from the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services from the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to inform scrutiny of draft budget 2021–21

Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

- A breakdown of the 2020–21 Health and Social Services MEG allocations by Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).
- Indicative 2021–22 Health and Social Services MEG allocations.
- Commentary on each of the Actions within the Health and Social Services MEG, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2019–20 and the First Supplementary Budget (June 2019).

In addition to the four usual themes of value for money, prioritisation, preventative spending and affordability, the Committee would like to receive information on the following (where not already covered in the commentary on each Action):

Local health boards' financial performance

An update on the four health boards which have continued to fail to meet their financial duties, and how the Welsh Government is supporting them to improve this position.

Well-being of future generations

Evidence of how the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and five ways of working have influenced the budget allocations for health and social care. The Committee is particularly interested in receiving details of how, going forward, the budget will:

- prioritise prevention/early intervention in health and social care;
- support sustainable, longer term funding of social care services;

- promote integration of health and social care services;
- ensure a sustainable health and social care workforce;
- reduce and control spend on agency staff;
- reduce health inequalities, and ensure fair access to health and care services in rural areas.

Transformation

- Further information about how the Welsh Government intends to fund service transformation in the longer term (i.e. beyond the life of the 2 year Transformation Fund), to ensure progress on the transformation agenda can be sustained.
- How will this budget support the development of a ‘whole system approach’ to health and social care, as described in *A Healthier Wales*.
- In setting its budget, how is the Welsh Government balancing the need to meet existing service pressures with the need to transform services and develop new models of care.

Primary care

- The budget allocated for primary care services, and how this compares to amounts allocated in the last three years. To what extent is this achieving the policy aim of shifting care from hospitals to primary care/community settings.

Mental health

- Priorities for mental health services for the next three years. Allocations/projected spend for delivery of these.
- How will this budget achieve greater parity between mental and physical health, as envisioned in *A Healthier Wales*.

ICT

- An up to date assessment of the costs of delivering the Welsh Government’s vision for digital and data, as described in *A Healthier Wales*.

Withdrawal from the European Union

- Information about budget allocations within your portfolio as a result of the UK's exit from the UK.