

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at y Cyfarfod Llawn Information Further to Plenary

Cyhoeddir ymatebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

Responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at Ddawl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig a gyhoeddwyd gan Gwenda Thomas, y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 12 Rhagfyr 2012 Information further to the Welsh Conservatives Debate issued by Gwenda Thomas, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, on 12 December 2012

At/To Kirsty Williams:

During the Welsh Conservative Debate on Direct Payments on 28 November I undertook to follow up on the point that you made about the Direct Payments Overview Group.

The Overview Group was set up in 2005 to consider the implementation of the Direct Payment Scheme in Wales and to provide advice to the Welsh Government on the future development of the Scheme. It is chaired by the Head of the Disability and Carers Branch within the Social Services Directorate, and its members represent key stakeholder groups, including Third Sector organisations such as Disability Wales and Age Cymru, and the Association of Directors of Social Services. It also includes service user representatives. This Group is therefore not one that I have personally established.

The Group played a particularly useful role as we prepared for consultation on Regulations to extend Direct Payments to individuals without capacity to consent to them, and as we undertook a major revision of the Direct Payments Guidance. Those Regulations and the revised Guidance came into force in April 2011. The Group also helped us prepare the proposals on Direct Payments contained within our consultation on a Social Services (Wales) Bill.

The Group last met in November 2011, when members had the opportunity to discuss our near final proposals ahead of the launch of the consultation in March 2012. Subsequently, members were invited to attend one of the events we held across Wales during the consultation period. Since the consultation closed in June, we have, as you know, been focussing all of our energies on developing our draft Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill, which will be published in January 2013. The Bill will set the framework for developing a model of citizen-directed support in Wales, which will include the promotion of Direct Payments. I see the Overview Group as having an important role to play in helping us take forward this important part of the 'Sustainable Social Services' reform agenda.

However, until the Bill is published there has been little that is new for the Overview Group to discuss, and that is why officials decided to postpone the two meetings which were being held in members' diaries this year. It is envisaged that the Overview Group's next meeting will be in February 2013, following publication of the draft Bill, when there will be much to talk about. My officials will be in touch with members shortly to make the necessary arrangements.

I hope this reassures you that the Overview Group has not been overlooked. It still has an important role to play in helping us develop our policies on Direct Payments, and I am grateful to the members for their continued enthusiasm for taking this agenda forward.

A copy of my letter is also being sent to William Graham AM, Lindsay Whittle AM and the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, Mark Drakeford AM, for information.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0193(HSS) a gyhoeddwyd gan Lesley Griffiths, y
Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 19 Chwefror 2013
Information further to OAQ(4)0193(HSS) issued by Lesley Griffiths, the Minister for
Health and Social Services, on 19 February 2013**

At/To Eluned Parrott:

During Plenary on 28 November 2012, you asked me to consider Bradford Royal Infirmary's recently refurbished dementia wards and training for staff around dementia awareness.

In response, I have received information from Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which has been shared with relevant policy officials across the Welsh Government.

I have also requested the information be submitted to the inaugural meeting of the newly established Older People Mental Health Delivery Assurance Group on 28 February 2013. This group is a subgroup of the new Mental Health National Partnership Board which monitors the delivery of the *Together for Mental Health* Strategy and Delivery Plan. The Delivery Assurance Group will therefore consider what we can learn in Wales from the initiatives in Bradford Royal Infirmary.