

Rebecca Evans AC/AM

**Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Services and Public Health**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-L/RE/5425/16

Dai Lloyd AM
Chair of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel,
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

4 January 2017

Dear Dai Lloyd,

Public Health (Wales) Bill

I would like to thank you and the Committee for the opportunity to discuss the Public Health (Wales) Bill on 1 December 2016.

During the discussion about health inequalities, I indicated that I would write to the Committee with further information about how legislation may address the need to ensure the Integrated Medium-Term Plans (IMTPs) of health boards and NHS Trusts identify and address the different needs of their communities. This issue was discussed in the Chief Medical Officer's recent annual report.

Under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, Welsh Ministers must give directions to a health board requiring it to prepare a plan which sets out its plans across a three year period for ensuring it complies with its duties in terms of finances, whilst improving the health of the people for whom it is responsible and the provision of healthcare. The IMTPs produced by health boards are the mechanism by which this is given effect. There is a robust system of direction and approval in place for the IMTPs, and Welsh Ministers most recently gave directions to health boards and NHS Trusts in October 2016 via the 2017-20 NHS Wales Planning Framework.

I am therefore satisfied that the existing legislative framework provides the most appropriate mechanism for addressing the issues discussed in the Chief Medical Officer's annual report.

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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.

During the discussion I also referred to the provisions in the Public Health (Wales) Bill about health impact assessments. These provisions will make a further positive contribution to reducing health inequalities in Wales. Requiring health impact assessments to be carried out in certain circumstances will help ensure that key decisions taken by public bodies, including health boards, are informed by an assessment of their likely effect on physical and mental health. This will also help strengthen partnership working between health boards and other public bodies to address those factors which contribute to health inequalities but lie outside of the health sector.

I hope that this information will be helpful to the Committee and I look forward to providing further evidence about the Bill shortly.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Rebecca" and the surname "Evans" clearly distinguishable.

Rebecca Evans AC / AM

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