

Health and Social Care organisations unite to outline the key priorities for the next Welsh Government in 2021

Over 30 health and social care organisations in Wales have come together to outline what the key priorities should be for the next Welsh Government after the 2021 Senedd Election, through the Welsh NHS Confederation's Policy Forum.

Since COVID-19 swept across the globe, health and social care organisations in Wales, working with partners in public, private and third sector, have worked together to confront the challenges we have all faced.

This united response reinforces the case for effective cross-sector collaboration, beyond the traditional boundaries of health and social care, enabling people to stay active, healthy, and independent in their own homes and communities for longer.

Nesta Lloyd-Jones, Assistant Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation and Chair of the Policy Forum said: "The Senedd election in May comes at a unique time for the people of Wales and for health and social care organisations.

"The coronavirus pandemic has broken down traditional barriers not just within health and social care, but across sectors. As well as those public bodies and organisations that traditionally deliver health and social care, many organisations have played an important role in combating the pandemic and protecting the health and wellbeing of the communities they serve.

"We must do everything we can to build on and maintain these relationships once the pandemic is over, applying the lessons we have learnt and implementing them in other areas of health and social care and wider sector working.

"This includes looking at the way we measure performance, focusing on what really matters to patients, and a cross-sector approach to delivering rehabilitation services and tackling health inequalities.

"We also need to have parity of esteem between health and social care and prioritise the physical and mental wellbeing of our staff. They have gone through so much during the last six months, and we need to make sure they feel motivated, valued and engaged in the work they are doing. Their extraordinary efforts during the Coronavirus pandemic should never be forgotten.

"We are calling on the next Welsh Government to continue to support the long-term vision of *"one seamless system for Wales"* by publishing an action plan that crosses all Government departments and works across all sectors. It is only through working together can we ensure a sustainable and viable health and care system that is fit for the future and meets the needs of the population."

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Contact

Eddie Steinson

Media and Communications Officer

edward.steinson@welshconfed.org

Mob: 0777 155 2114

Notes to editors

- **The Welsh NHS Confederation** is the national membership body representing the 11 organisations that make up the NHS in Wales: the seven Local Health Boards, the three NHS Trusts and Health Education and Improvement Wales.
- **The Welsh NHS Confederation's Policy Forum** is a group of health and social care organisations which come together to discuss and agree shared priorities in order to confront the big challenges impacting health and social care.
- The organisations who have endorsed the document include:
 - Alzheimer's Society Cymru
 - Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
 - Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Partnership
 - British Association of Social Workers
 - British Dietetic Association
 - British Heart Foundation
 - British Medical Association
 - British Red Cross
 - Cancer Research UK
 - Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
 - College of Podiatry
 - Community Housing Cymru
 - Hospice UK
 - Macmillan Cancer Support
 - Marie Curie
 - Motor Neurone Disease Association
 - Multiple Sclerosis Society UK
 - Parkinson's UK
 - Prostate Cancer UK
 - Royal College of GPs
 - Royal College of Occupational Therapists
 - Royal College of Physicians
 - Royal College of Psychiatrists
 - Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
 - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
 - Royal College of Surgeons of England
 - Royal National Institute of Blind People
 - Royal Pharmaceutical Society
 - Samaritans

- Stroke Association
- Tenovus Cancer Care
- Welsh Council for Voluntary Action
- Welsh NHS Confederation