

Concise Minutes – Health and Social Care Committee

Meeting Venue:

Hybrid – Committee room 5 Ty Hywel
and video conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Thursday, 23 September
2021

Meeting time: 09.31 – 13.50

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/12423>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Russell George MS (Chair) Rhun ap Iorwerth MS Gareth Davies MS Mike Hedges MS Jack Sargeant MS Joyce Watson MS
Witnesses:	Dr Frank Atherton, Welsh Government Dr Rob Orford, Welsh Government Fliss Bennee, Welsh Government Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Social Services Lynne Neagle MS, Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing Dr Andrew Goodall, Welsh Government Albert Heaney, Welsh Government



	Tracey Breheny, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	<p>Helen Finlayson (Clerk)</p> <p>Claire Morris (Second Clerk)</p> <p>Lowri Jones (Deputy Clerk)</p> <p>Amy Clifton (Researcher)</p> <p>Sarah Hatherley (Researcher)</p> <p>Aled Evans (Legal Adviser)</p> <p>Philippa Watkins (Researcher)</p> <p>Dr Paul Worthington (Researcher)</p>

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

2 COVID-19: update on current situation from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Chief Scientific Adviser for Health and the Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Cell

2.1 The Committee received evidence from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Chief Scientific Adviser for Health and the Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Cell.

3 General scrutiny session with the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Deputy Minister for Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

3.1 The Committee received evidence from the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Deputy Minister for Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

3.2 The Deputy Minister for Social Services agreed to provide further detail about how any social care needs of people who have or are recovering from long COVID are being considered, assessed and met by local health boards and regional partnership boards.

3.3 Dr Andrew Goodall agreed to provide data on the proportion of GP consultations held face to face and remotely, including any variance between health boards and between practices across Wales.

3.4 The Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing agreed to write to the Committee with details on the number of children, young people and adults accessing primary and specialist mental health services, and waiting times for assessment and therapeutic intervention.

3.5 The Chief Social Care Officer for Wales agreed to confirm whether any local authority in Wales is currently spending less than its standard spending assessment on social care.

4 Papers to note

4.1 Letter from Chair, Finance Committee to Senedd Committees regarding Financial Scrutiny for the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23

4.1 The Committee noted the letter.

4.2 Letter from Chair, Children Young People and Education Committee to Committee Chairs regarding Children and young people's priorities for the Sixth Senedd

4.2 The Committee noted the letter.

4.3 Letter from Healthcare Inspectorate Wales regarding its Service of Concern process for NHS Bodies in Wales

4.3 The Committee noted the letter.

4.4 Response from the Welsh Government to the Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's Legacy Report

4.4 The Committee noted the response.

4.5 Letter to the then Minister for Health and Social Services regarding key themes which emerged from the final phase of the predecessor's Committee's inquiry into

the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the response to it, on health and social care in Wales

4.5 The Committee noted the letter.

4.6 Response from the Minister for Health and Social Services and Deputy Minister for Social Services regarding the key themes which emerged from the final phase of the predecessor's Committee's inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the response to it, on health and social care in Wales

4.6 The Committee noted the response.

4.7 Letter from Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee to Senedd Committees regarding joint working in the Sixth Senedd

4.7 The Committee noted the letter.

4.8 Letter from Altaf Hussain MS to Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee regarding Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Cymru

4.8 The Committee noted the letter.

4.9 Response from Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee to Altaf Hussain MS regarding Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Cymru

4.9 The Committee noted the response.

4.10 Response from the Welsh Government to the Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's report on Health and social care in the adult prison estate in Wales

4.10 The Committee noted the response.

4.11 Letter to Business Committee regarding the Sixth Senedd Committee timetable

4.11 The Committee noted the letter.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

5.1 The Committee agreed the motion.

6 COVID-19 and general scrutiny: Consideration of evidence

6.1 The Committee considered the evidence received, and agreed to write to the Ministers to follow up on various matters.

7 Forward work programme

7.1 The Committee discussed its forward work programme for the remainder of the autumn term, and agreed to discuss the matter further at its meeting on Thursday 7 October.

8 Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Health and Care Bill

8.1 The Committee noted that the Chair had written to the Business Committee to seek an extension to the reporting deadline to Thursday 11 November.

8.2 The Committee agreed to write to the Welsh Government, the UK Government and relevant stakeholders to seek written evidence on issues arising from the LCM.