

**Vaughan Gething MS**

Minister for Health and Social Services

**Julie Morgan MS**

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

29 January 2021

Dear Ministers

Thank you for attending Wednesday's meeting of the Committee to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the social care sector and unpaid carers.

Unfortunately, there were a number of issues we were unable to cover fully in the time available, so Members have asked that I follow these up with you in writing. Can you please provide us with the following:

1. Details of any further longer term financial commitments that the Welsh Government is planning to make to support the sector, in particular to ensure that care homes remain viable;
2. Details of how the Welsh Government intends to improve access to respite care for unpaid carers during the pandemic;
3. Your views on the evidence the Committee has heard from stakeholders about concerns that service users and unpaid carers having 'managed' with fewer formal care and support services during the pandemic could be interpreted as demonstrating that they need less intervention from social services in future;
4. Details of any further measures you are considering to facilitate care home visits and how you will assess the impact of measures such as the leasing of pods in facilitating safe visits;
5. The Committee notes the addition of £250k to the £1million carers support fund. However, as this only runs until March 2021, could you provide clarification on what help will be available beyond March for carers who are struggling financially;



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6. The Committee notes that some support services for young carers have been able to move online during the pandemic and that the launch of the young carers' card is in progress. Is the Welsh Government taking any further steps to support young carers or provide them with respite, particularly those who are currently unable to attend school;
7. Details of how the Welsh Government's COVID-19 recovery planning is taking account of the implications for social care of:
  - Delays in dementia assessment and reviews during the pandemic; and
  - Needs that may arise as a result of long COVID.
8. An update on PPE supplies for the social care sector. In particular, any steps that the Welsh Government is taking to ensure that there is an appropriate and sustainable supply of PPE to effectively meet needs in social care for the foreseeable future.

It would be helpful if you could let us have your response by **15 February 2021** to help inform the Committee's report on this issue.

Yours sincerely



Dr Dai Lloyd MS  
**Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee**

