



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1106
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/09903/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

26 February 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December, seeking my views on the petition you have received from Rhys Bowler regarding the introduction of Personal Health Budgets and Personalised Care in Wales.

The clear, unambiguous expectation in Wales is for personalised, seamless integrated health and social care that enables individuals to maintain voice and control where they wish to.

We know, however, through personal experiences shared by Rhys Bowler and others that there continue to be concerns regarding people's ability to exercise voice and control over their care, when they are not able to receive direct payments under NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC).

We understand the importance of continuity of care for these individuals, especially those who are most vulnerable, have complex health and social care needs and those that require intimate care. The prospect of losing their team of personal assistants, who may have been providing care to them for a number of years, is understandably very distressing to them.

We recognise that enabling people to have control over their own care and support arrangements, through the provision of more flexible care, will improve the health and wellbeing of individuals as well as that of their families and carers.

We are committed to looking at different options around the interface between CHC and direct payments, including how direct payments may be used for CHC recipients, which would be equivalent to personal health budgets.

We will look at long term legislative options as well as considering any interim arrangements that could improve voice and control for CHC recipients in the short term.

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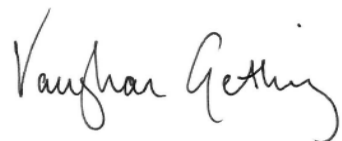
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

My officials have invited Rhys Bowler to join a working group to consider options to address these issues, once recovery from the pandemic allows us to recommence this work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services