

Cafodd yr ymateb hwn ei gyflwyno i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)

This response was submitted to the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)

HSC PSS 27

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Coleg Brenhinol y Meddygon | Royal College of Physicians





Health and Social Care Committee consultation on its priorities for the Sixth Senedd

RCP Cymru Wales response

Through our work with patients, consultants and trainees, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is working to achieve real change across hospitals and the wider health and care sector in Wales.

Our 40,000 members worldwide, including 1,450 in Wales, work in hospitals and the community across 30 different clinical specialties, diagnosing and treating millions of patients with a huge range of medical conditions. We campaign for improvements to healthcare, medical education and public health.

We organise high-quality conferences and teaching that attract hundreds of doctors every year and our work with the Society of Physicians in Wales showcases best practice through poster competitions and trainee awards.

We work directly with health boards, trusts and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), we carry out hospital visits, and we collaborate with other organisations to raise awareness of public health challenges.

© Royal College of Physicians September 2021

wales@rcp.ac.uk

www.rcp.ac.uk/wales

[@RCPWales](https://twitter.com/RCPWales)

██████████
RCP head of policy and campaigns for Wales
████████████████████
██████████

SeneddHealth@senedd.wales

RCP Cymru Wales
Royal College of Physicians

17 September 2021

www.rcp.ac.uk/wales

Health and Social Care Committee priorities for the Sixth Senedd

Name of organisation: Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Cymru Wales
Lead contact: [REDACTED], head of policy and campaigns for Wales
Contact details: [REDACTED]

Key recommendations

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Cymru Wales is calling for:

1. A wide-ranging cross-Senedd committee inquiry into tackling health inequalities
2. A short inquiry into the implementation of [A Healthier Wales](#) recommendations
3. A follow up piece of work to the [2016 inquiry into medical recruitment](#)
4. A short inquiry into the [Integrated Care Fund](#) and Regional Partnership Boards
5. A commitment to prioritising women and girls' health in all committee work

Our response


We welcome the Health and Social Care Committee stated priorities for the Sixth Senedd:

- Public health and prevention
- The health and social care workforce, including organisational culture and staff wellbeing
- Access to mental health services
- Evidence based innovation in health and social care
- Support and services for unpaid carers
- Access to COVID and non-COVID rehabilitation services
- Access to services for long-term chronic conditions, including MSK conditions.

1. A cross-Senedd committee inquiry into tackling health inequalities

Tackling avoidable illness with cross-government action on health inequalities

We need a cross-government approach to tackling inequalities that contribute to avoidable illness: not just in physical health, but mental health, end-of-life care, housing, education, transport, rural healthcare, digital access and income, among other social determinants of health. Along with colleagues across the voluntary sector in Wales, we are therefore calling for an inquiry across all Senedd committees on tackling health inequalities in Wales. Meaningful progress will require coherent efforts across all sectors to close the gap and an inquiry undertaken by all Senedd committees will enable committees to consider what action each Welsh Government department is doing to tackle the root cause of health inequalities and put forward recommendations around where improvements are needed.



Further reading

'Making the difference' – WNHS Confed Alliance (April 2021)

'The case for a cross-government strategy' – Royal College of Physicians (September 2021)

2. A short inquiry into the implementation of the recommendations from [A healthier Wales: the Welsh Government's long-term plan for health and social care](#)

Assessing the impact of *A healthier Wales*

Informed by the parliamentary review of health and social services, *A healthier Wales* was launched by the previous Welsh Government in June 2018. It sets out the Welsh Government's ambitions on prudent and preventative healthcare, promises a new National Clinical Framework and an NHS Wales Executive and established a £100m Transformation Fund. Now is the time to revisit these recommendations to assess if they are still fit for purpose in a post-pandemic world. Has the long-term plan made a difference, and if not, why not?

3. A follow up piece of work to the [2016 inquiry into medical recruitment](#)

Valuing the NHS Wales workforce with a national recruitment, retention and staff recovery plan
We need a national action plan to develop and retain the current NHS workforce alongside an increase in medical school numbers and postgraduate training places: supported by investment in the NHS estate and targeted at the specialties and places where we will need doctors in 10-15 years. Now is the time to revisit the 2016 inquiry into medical recruitment and its recommendations to discover whether the Welsh Government has met its commitments to improve the recruitment and retention of staff in the NHS.

4. A short inquiry into the [Integrated Care Fund](#) and Regional Partnership Boards


Reducing the impact of the NHS Wales backlog on patient safety and medical education

We need an ambitious plan to tackle waiting lists and the NHS backlog: this doesn't mean asking clinicians to just 'do more', but expanding social care provision, investing in e-prescribing, diagnostics and infrastructure, and supporting the workforce to adopt new technologies to harness innovation, improve resilience and ensure the NHS is prepared for future crises. An inquiry into the effectiveness of the ICF (launched in 2014) would identify and highlight good practice across Wales and more importantly, areas for improvement to bring together health, housing, social care and other partners to make a significant difference to patient care as we recover from the pandemic.

5. A commitment to prioritising women and girls' health in all health committee work

Working together on a Women and Girls' Health Quality Statement and Plan for Wales

The ONS reports that women [live fewer years in good health than men](#) and are more likely to be in poverty, requiring both social and financial support. As a member of a third sector coalition which is drafting a women and girls' health quality statement and plan for Wales, we are calling on the Health and Social Care Committee to both prioritise and incentivise the effective



management of women's health during this Sixth Senedd, thereby demonstrating a real commitment to the wellbeing of future generations of women and their families.

Further evidence

As part of our evidence, we are also submitting the following RCP Cymru Wales reports and recommendations for consideration. All of them can be accessed below or on our website.

- [Making the connection: Living and working through the pandemic](#) (2021)
- [Recover, rebuild, renew: An update to our action plan for the next Welsh Gov](#) (2021)
- [Breaking down barriers: Our action plan for the next Welsh government](#) (2019)
- [#WalesFutureLeaders: Developing the confidence to get ahead](#) (2019)
- [Breaking down barriers: Our action plan for the next Welsh government](#) (2019)
- [Time for research: Delivering innovative patient care in Wales](#) (2019)
- [Doing things differently: Supporting junior doctors in Wales](#) (2019)

For more information, please contact:

██████████
RCP head of policy and campaigns for Wales

████████████████████
██████████