Cafodd yr ymateb hwn ei gyflwyno i'r ymgynghoriad ar y cyd a gynhelir gan y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus fel sail i'w gwaith craffu ar Iechyd a Gofal Digidol Cymru

This response was submitted to the joint consultation held by the Health and Social Care Committee and the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committees to inform their scrutiny of Digital Health and Care Wales

SDHCW 16
Ymateb gan: | Response from: Gofal Cymdeithasol Cymru | Social Care Wales

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Consultation – *Digital Health and Care Wales* *Consultation display (senedd.wales)* *due 23rd September.*

Background: The Health and Social Care Committee and the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee have agreed to hold a joint scrutiny session with DHCW.

In particular, the Committees will consider:
- *The process of establishing DCHW and progress in the first year, progress achieved and outstanding challenges.*
- *Progress on recommendations of Fifth Senedd Public Accounts Committee reports.*
- *Prioritisation and manageability of the work programme and change agenda, including workforce, skills issues, cybersecurity and any areas of particular pressure or concern.*
- *Relationship with local health boards, NHS trusts, local authorities, social services providers, and other key stakeholders including patients and patient groups.*
- *Workforce and skills capacity within other health and care bodies; whether they have sufficient capacity to engage and potential impact on delivery of DHCW priorities.*
- *Assessing the impact of DHCW's work and whether it's achieving its objectives.*
- *Data transparency, accessibility, quality, and comparability with health and social care data and key performance indicators across the UK.*

Social Care Wales is pleased to respond to the request for evidence to inform the joint scrutiny session with Digital Health and Care Wales. Social Care Wales is a Welsh Government Sponsored body charged with the regulation of the social care workforce, supporting the development of the social care and early years workforce and to support the social care sector with service improvement, research, evidence, and innovation.

We have been pleased to work collaboratively with Digital Health and Care Wales to support the social care and health agendas particularly with the collaborative work undertaken to support the production of the strategic approach to social care data.[1] This enables the social care sector to have a strategic approach to improve use of data in Wales. In order to deliver the ambitions of the Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act and A Healthier Wales it is important that we embed integrated services to support individuals and families across Wales, underpinning this we need integrated or aligned digital and data systems. We have been working closely with DHCW on the National Data Resource programme to help more connective and collaborative use of data across social care and health.

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[1] https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/file-uploads/CRT132463A_WA-National-Data-Strategy-for-Social-Care-Discovery-Report-v1.1-ACCESSIBILITY-NOTES_WEB.pdf

Digital Health and Care Wales has a key strategic focus on supporting NHS organisations, and while we welcome the leadership role DHCW is showing on a number of shared approaches across social care and health services, for example the NDR and WCCIS, they do not have capacity to support social care organisations in Wales outside of these shared initiatives. The name of the organisation can be misleading for the social care sector, who may have anticipated the same level of support that is provided to NHS bodies. The strategic approach to social care data, identifies the steps needed to progress improvement of the use of data in Wales, social care does not have the same level of capacity and investment at a service delivery or national support level to fully enact ambitions which could hinder the delivery of integrated approaches. With funding from the NDR programme we are working collaboratively with ADSSC (the professional body for statutory Directors of Social Services) to look at the data maturity of local authorities, which should help us identify areas for further support and development, as well as shared learning.

There are key imperative for us to improve our digital approaches for social care and health services in Wales. We have welcomed the support of DHCW to support the social care sector, particularly on collaborative systems that support the integration of health and social care operational delivery. There are also a wide number of organisations supporting digital developments and innovation, such as the Life Sciences hub, the Bevan Commission and through regional research, innovation, and improvement hubs.

We have recently undertaken user research to identify how social care innovation can be supported, and digital approaches and better use of data, are key theme that have emerged in discussions. With our new remit for supporting innovation, we will be looking to progress this further in partnership with others. We believe there is an imperative for all organisations to positively collaborate to support a shared approach, to maximise our digital advances across social care and health services. DHCW is an absolute critical partner in taking a key role in this and we are committed to working with them to support each other's priorities.