

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/2058/19

Chair
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Chair
Children, Young People and Education

16 October 2019

Dear Chairs,

Following your interest in the consultation and development of the Healthy Weight; Healthy Wales, I wanted to make you aware that the final strategy will be launched on 17 October 2019.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales our long term strategy to prevent and reduce obesity in Wales is a culmination of the views of our stakeholders, international evidence and research. The Strategy is a 10 year plan to reduce and prevent obesity for the people of Wales. Whilst I am the lead Minister, this long term plan adopts a cross government and cross sector approach to tackling obesity.

Obesity is complex and cannot be solved by the government or NHS working in isolation; the evidence available suggests a partnership and whole-systems approach is the only way to achieve positive change. In line with the approach of A Healthier Wales, this is the first time that the Welsh Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to tackling obesity and the range of proposals highlights how existing programmes and approaches can be refocused, whilst strengthening governance and leadership.

The four themes of the Strategy illustrate the system-wide approach that will be required to tackle obesity, recognising that the food and physical environment influences choices. They include consideration as to how interventions in areas such as transport, planning, early years, education, communities and health services can be brought together to develop a coherent approach.

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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.

Accompanying the strategy will be 5 two-yearly delivery plans which will span the lifetime of the strategy. The first delivery plan for 2020-22 will follow in early 2020 and provide detail of the exact action proposed to see changes in population behaviour and habits, encouraged and promoted through our settings and environments, and through local and nation-wide leadership. Over the next two years we will begin to develop policy and legislation and I will introduce new funding to help achieve our aims. This will allow us to put a greater focus together with partners on prevention and early intervention through all systems as part of our approach to building a healthier Wales. The strategy will help to ensure that we can leverage and maximise additional funding and opportunities to drive change across partners, to see a shift in how we use spend towards prevention.

There is strong support for the proposals we have set out in the strategy, together with energy and backing within our communities to support positive lifestyle change. I want to ensure that our strategy unlocks this potential. I remain grateful for the cross party support and the understanding of the significance of this issue. I intend to make a further statement on the Strategy in the chamber next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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