

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-501
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/02058/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
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16 July 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 3 July concerning the proposal to make day centres for the elderly in Wales a statutory requirement.

My response echoes the previous response to the Petitions Committee made by Gwenda Thomas in her former role as Deputy Minister for Social Services. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 makes provision for local authorities and health boards to undertake an assessment of the needs of their population and of service provision. This will inform the development of an appropriate range of services to respond to need more effectively, preferably with an integrated approach to provide more personalised care and support to individuals and their families. Individuals may have a range of needs which may be effectively addressed through the provision of day care facilities, which will be for the assessment to determine. The contribution of other services in providing day care will also need to be taken into account. These may include care homes and day hospitals. This will be a decision for health boards, local authorities and their partners to decide.

The new Act places a duty on local authorities to assess the needs of people in need of care and support. In carrying out this assessment the local authority must identify the outcomes the individual wishes to achieve in day-to-day life and to what extent the provision of care and support could contribute to the achievement of these outcomes. The outcome of these assessments should inform the solutions to address needs and the development of an appropriate care and support plan.

People have traditionally used day centres for a variety of reasons:

- Assistance with bathing – now usually provided in the individual's home;
- Rehabilitation – overlap with day hospitals;
- Social interaction for people who are isolated;
- Respite for carers.

There may be other ways of addressing these needs which match the preferences of the individuals concerned. Not everyone would wish to attend a day centre. If the provision of day centres were made a statutory requirement, we would also have to make a judgement about what would constitute compliance and non-compliance. What would a county the geographical size of Powys need to do to comply? What definitions would you apply to day care?

I consider it more important to define statutory responsibilities in terms of responding to the needs of individuals in need of care and support and their carers rather than in terms of prescribing specific service responses across the whole of Wales which may prove inflexible and wasteful.

Best wishes,



Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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