



WALES CANCER ALLIANCE CYNGHRAIR CANSER CYMRU

Cancer Improvement Plan for Wales Briefing for Senedd Health Spokespeople

Background

On 31st January, the Tuesday before World Cancer Day (4th February), the Minister for Health and Social Services, Eluned Morgan MS will be giving a statement in the Senedd concerning the publication of the new Cancer Improvement Plan for Wales.

The Plan will be the first all-Wales plan for Cancer Services since the previous two Cancer Delivery Plans (covering the periods 2012 – 2016, and 2016 – 2020).

Since 2020 Wales has experienced the Covid19 pandemic, and the Welsh Government has moved away from a suite of condition-specific delivery plans to a suite of condition quality statements, including a cancer quality statement first published in 2021.

The Wales Cancer Alliance has been calling for a national cancer plan to follow on from, and to continue the work of, the delivery plans since 2019.

Statement by the Chair of the Wales Cancer Alliance, Lowri Griffiths, concerning the Cancer Improvement Plan for Wales published today, 31st January 2023:

“This is welcome news, as the Wales Cancer Alliance has been calling for a detailed plan for cancer services since the Cancer Delivery Plan for Wales came to an end in 2020. The Cancer Improvement Plan for Wales outlines the steps NHS Wales needs to take to improve cancer outcomes, and enhance the experience of people with cancer, over the next three years.”

“The COVID19 pandemic derailed our NHS in its efforts to deliver a great deal of Wales’ cancer service improvements and the impact that the pandemic has had on our collective ambitions has been significant.

“The Wales Cancer Alliance represents 28 cancer charities working alongside and with NHS Wales, helping to meet the needs of people affected by cancer. We are

pleased that as an Alliance we were invited to contribute to the plan - and more importantly - that we were able to engage with over 160 people who have been directly affected by cancer, and feed that into the latter stages of the plan's development. It is critical that services are developed to meet their needs."

"We now shift our focus to the implementation of the plan. We look forward to working alongside and with the Wales Cancer Network, local health boards and other partners to make the plan a reality and be part of a system delivering the best possible outcomes for people in Wales affected by cancer."

For consideration by Health Spokespeople responding to the Minister's statement

Members may choose to ask the Minister about the involvement of local Health Boards in the development of the plan and whether she is satisfied that LHBs will be able to deliver over the proposed 3-year period.

If you have any questions concerning the above statement or the Plan, please contact Greg Pycroft, Secretary of the Wales Cancer Alliance on secretary@walescanceralliance.org / 029 2076 8789