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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation – summary of response

Continuing Care for Children & Young People

March 2020

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Summary report: consultation on continuing care for children and young people guidance

Introduction

1. The Welsh Government sought views on the updated guidance document for Children and Young People's Continuing Care. This report is a summary of the responses.
2. The consultation ran from 17 May to 9 August 2019

About the consultation

3. The current Children and Young People's Continuing Care Guidance (the 2012 guidance) dates from 2012 and is designed for use by all those planning and providing children's continuing care services in health boards, local authorities and their partners.
4. The legislative landscape has changed significantly since 2012 as several important pieces of legislation have been introduced that have direct relevance to continuing care. These include the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016 and the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. There is therefore a need to produce revised guidance that takes full account of this legislation.
5. Welsh Government became increasingly aware that practitioners in health boards and local authorities were finding the 2012 guidance unhelpful and felt there was a focus on process at the expense of actual outcomes. We concluded there was a need to review the 2012 guidance and produce a revised version that clearly put the child at the heart of the process.
6. To support the development of the revised guidance and also to seek views from practitioners on the issues they had been encountering, Welsh Government held a workshop event in the SWALEC Stadium on 4 October 2018. The event was very successful, with approximately 80 attendees from a range of health and social services settings across Wales. The outputs from the day confirmed that the 2012 guidance was considered outdated and that there was a real need for revised guidance to be introduced.
7. To ensure the views of people who were involved in the day to day operation of the continuing care system in Wales were fully reflected, officials established a small task and finish group consisting of practitioners from health and social services teams across Wales to draft the revised guidance.
8. The revised guidance was subject to a 12 week public consultation which asked a number of questions about the document.

About the consultation responses

9. Welsh Government received a total of 35 responses to the consultation. These came from a good mix of practitioners, agencies and the third sector. Responses varied

significantly in terms of length, with some responses being very long and detailed. A document including all of the responses received is at **Annex 1**.

10. The majority of respondents felt the guidance and the criteria for eligibility were clearer than current guidance. However, some clarification was requested in terms of definitions. The guidance has been amended where necessary to reflect this.
11. A number of responses raised concern that the checklist was used to determine the individual's eligibility for a continuing care package. However, there is explicit guidance that states the checklist is not a substitute for the continuing care process and the outcome does not necessarily indicate eligibility for continuing care, however it will support practitioners to consider when a full holistic assessment is required and it may provide some indication as to whether a child or young person might be eligible for continuing care.
12. Some requested more detail on assessments. Welsh Government's view is the assessments will be different for each individual case and therefore the guidance cannot be prescriptive. What is important is that the appointed assessor is suitably qualified to know what assessments need to be conducted and the appropriate professionals qualified to carry out those assessments.
13. Transition was raised by some respondents and Welsh Government is currently producing revised guidance on transition and handover between children's and adult health services, with a view to putting it out to a 12 week public consultation. The guidance will be formally published under a Welsh Health Circular in spring 2020. The guidance will cover children and young people who have been receiving healthcare for some time as well as those who need to access healthcare services for the first time aged 16-17.
14. A few responses raised a number of discussions around certain High Court judgements regarding the provision of care by NHS and Social Services. Welsh Government Legal Services have provided a very clear legal steer in relation to these judgements and the revised guidance summarises these key points.

Next steps

15. Welsh Government have considered all responses to the consultation and have made necessary changes within the guidance.