



Ein cyf/Our ref JM/00338/20

Heléna Herklots CBE
Commissioner
Older People's Commissioner for Wales
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21 April 2020

Dear Heléna,

Thank you for your letter of 14 April.

All our efforts are currently focussed on dealing with the Covid-19 emergency. We understand the particular and serious impact on people who live and work in care homes and the worry for themselves, their families and friends. I can give you my assurance that we are working closely with Care Inspectorate Wales, Social Care Wales, Public Health Wales, Directors of Social Services and Local Health Boards to ensure that care homes are properly supported.

Responsibility for social care in Wales falls within my portfolio and I am fully sighted on the progress we are making and in particular on the areas where we need to do more. The Social Care Sub-Group chaired by the Deputy Director General is working to address the many issues which are arising across the social care sector – including those referred to in your letter - as a matter of urgency. I would welcome representation from your office on this group. The Deputy Director General has also put in place a series of work streams which includes one for care homes in order to ensure that the necessary actions are completed. I am not convinced that an additional plan of action over and above those arrangements will add value here but we will certainly report on progress via the Social Care Sub-Group.

Turning to the specific issues raised in your letter, I can confirm that there is now a system in place for NHS Shared Services to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to local authorities for onward distribution to care providers, including care homes. To date we have issued over 7 million items of PPE to local authorities to support and protect the social care workforce. Further deliveries of stock are being coordinated by NHS Shared Services and

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Irrelevant & Sensitive
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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.