

Ten Key Points from the Parliamentary Review of Health & Social Care in Wales – INTERIM REPORT

<p>1. The case for change is compelling. Wales can attain better health and wellbeing outcomes for its citizens and meet the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. But to do this it will need to speed up how the health and social care system adapts to the changing needs of the population and other major challenges.</p>
<p>2. Wales has very significant assets that can be used more effectively. A bold and unified vision for the whole health and social care system, underpinned by a clear strategy based on the relentless pursuit of continuous quality improvement and prevention, will be needed urgently to drive this forward.</p>
<p>3. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Prudent Healthcare offer powerful sets of principles, which can apply equally to both the Welsh NHS and social care and have a high level of support.</p>
<p>4. To translate the vision into concrete action, in the first instance a limited set of new models of care should be developed, trialled, evaluated, and scaled up rapidly. These should be developed and tested against clear standards, tailored to local circumstances and needs.</p>
<p>5. The people of Wales, staff, service users and carers should be encouraged to have far greater influence and involvement in the design, implementation, evaluation and subsequent development of new models of care and have clearer shared roles and responsibilities.</p>
<p>6. New skills and career paths for the health and social care workforce need to be planned on a large scale now, aligned with the developing new models of care. Current workforce shortages which inhibit change need to be addressed. A more systematic and effective approach to continuous quality improvement is needed, and a culture that creates a supporting and engaging environment should be actively encouraged.</p>
<p>7. Effective new models of care are necessary, but not sufficient, to guarantee a health and social care system that is sustainable in future. Effort needs to be made to boost critical infrastructure to support new models and also drive higher quality and efficiency. Successful digital and infrastructure initiatives need to be systematically identified and spread better. Capital planning needs to be done in a way that supports new models of care. How the health and social care system supports and spreads innovation needs emphasis and more work.</p>
<p>8. There is substantial consensus on the case for change but less clarity on how possible changes can best be developed, implemented and adapted. Progress has been made. But faster change is needed if the health and social care system is to be sustainable into the future. This needs stronger national direction and a better balance across the</p>

continuum of national direction and local autonomy in generating change. This must be supported by a more developed performance management approach, which holds people to account effectively but also encourages system-wide learning and is based on outcomes for citizens across the whole health and care system.

9. An effectively integrated health and social care system, which offers higher quality care for the people of Wales is an explicit aim. This requires the levers and incentives for change to be aligned and therefore to be acting in synergy. This means they must also be deployed across the whole system, not just one part of it.

10. Governance, finance, and accountability arrangements should be streamlined and aligned across health and social care. There are a number of leadership and cultural issues that need to be addressed, and resolved to enable more rapid and effective progress.