



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ82846

Heledd Fychan MS
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

Heledd.Fychan@senedd.wales

20 July 2021

Dear Heledd

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking how the Welsh Government will ensure that more is done to improve the health of residents living in post-industrial areas, such as Rhondda Cynon Taf, where there has been a significant number of COVID-19 deaths.

It is a central ambition of this Government to do everything we can to improve the health of all the people of Wales, this includes addressing the unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes between areas of highest and lowest deprivation. We will continue to take a whole Government approach to tackling the root causes of health inequalities which primarily rest in the unequal distribution of the social determinants of health: areas such as quality housing, household income, personal resilience, clean air, healthy neighbourhoods and access to quality healthcare and intend to tackle these in line with the commitments set out in our new Programme for Government.

In addition, supporting people to be more physically active, to maintain a healthy weight and to stop smoking are key to ensuring long term improvements in health outcomes.

Our Healthy and Active Fund (HAF) represents a significant commitment of £5.9million over four years to support projects improving mental and physical health of people across Wales, including in post-industrial areas. One such project is the Super-Agers project, this aims to get older people, including those in Rhondda Cynon Taf, more active, enhancing their physical and mental well-being.

Our 10-year Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales strategy was launched in October 2019 and sets out the plan to prevent and reduce obesity. This year we are investing £6.5m to deliver upon priorities set out within our 2021-22 delivery plan. As part of this funding we have also allocated £2.9m across all Local Health Boards, including £439,000 for Cwm Taf Morgannwg LHB, which will support the development and delivery of weight management services in Wales.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

We are also committed to our longer-term goal of a smoke-free Wales and continue to support smokers to quit with our Help me Quit services. The Welsh Government has also recently made it illegal to smoke in hospital grounds, school grounds, public playgrounds and outdoor areas of childcare settings as we are determined that our children and young people see less people smoking and increasingly think of it as an unusual habit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services