

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf / Our ref: MB-MD-0082-15

Janet Finch-Saunders
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Janet,

12 January 2015

Further to Written Assembly Question 68163 regarding the possibility of mandated dementia training, I can confirm dementia training resources and support are available to NHS Wales to ensure the needs of service users are acknowledged, and that care continues to prioritise safety and dignity.

First, Welsh Government awarded the Dementia Services Developmental Centre (DSDC) – a partnership between Bangor University and NHS Wales - £250,000, for the period December 2010 to September 2012, to review, develop and deliver training to staff operating in a range of different settings, including care homes, hospitals, community mental health services and primary care, including GPs. In response, the DSDC developed the Wales Dementia Training Initiative, an online directory of training resources and courses. This includes distance learning opportunities, profiles of available training packages and a directory of training providers.

Secondly, 2013-14 saw the award of £47,500 to the Wales Mental Health in Primary Care Network to develop, market and make available a primary care dementia training resource. Designed to improve the understanding and response of the entire practice team, from GPs and nurses, to practice managers and receptionists, this was made available for use in November 2013. Delivered under the Directed Enhanced Service, approximately 30% of Wales' surgeries have already accessed the training, which also raises awareness of the importance of timely diagnosis, evidence-based interventions, and further sources of information and advice.

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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There are presently no plans to introduce compulsory dementia training across the entirety of the NHS, but our Older Persons Mental Health Delivery Assurance Group - which brings together clinical experts and key stakeholders to advise Welsh Government - will continue to consider what further improvements are warranted.

Best wishes,

Mark.

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