



Our ref: WQ85058 & WQ85059

Russell George MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Montgomeryshire

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10 May 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me when the revised arthritis and musculoskeletal framework policy will be published and also asking what funding will be allocated to support the framework policy.

The Welsh Government recognises the significant challenges that people with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions face on a daily basis and is committed to supporting anyone living with these persistent and life changing conditions.

The arthritis and long-term musculoskeletal conditions in adults policy framework is intended to provide guidance to all stakeholders including people living with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, healthcare professionals, and those involved in service delivery and planning. Specifically, it will offer advice on how to use effective approaches and make informed decisions. As the key strategic document for the next 5 years, it is crucial that it is pitched at the right level and has the benefit of being shaped by our new national clinical leads for arthritis and long-term musculoskeletal conditions.

The two clinical leads for arthritis and long-term musculoskeletal conditions commenced their roles last month and are currently reviewing the responses to the arthritis and long-term musculoskeletal consultation exercise undertaken last year. They are also in the process of establishing a key stakeholder group to help finalise the framework. This work will take place over the summer and the intention is to publish the framework later this year.

We have also taken steps to strengthen the governance surrounding arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions by including them in the Welsh Government's planned care programme. Alongside pain, falls and fragility they will become the focus of a new transformation board reporting directly into the planned care programme board. This has already resulted in an initial £500k being ring fenced for the work of the transformation board for 2022/23.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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