

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref : WQ 85854

Natasha Asghar
Member of the Senedd for South Wales East

Natasha.Asghar@senedd.wales

23 August 2022

Dear Natasha,

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me what action I am to improve the stroke unit at Grange University Hospital.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) is responsible for operational matters and taking appropriate actions to improve services. As Minister for Health and Social Services, my responsibility is to set the strategic direction through policy, some specific to stroke, and others broader but relevant to stroke services, such as policy regarding rehabilitation^{1 2 3}.

Some of the actions ABUHB are taking, and developments being explored, include working with the Community Health Council and Stroke Association Wales to raise awareness in the community and gain feedback regarding patient's experiences when receiving care and treatment for a stroke.

They are exploring opportunities to improve pre-hospital and in-hospital pathways, including direct access to the hyper-acute unit, as well as opportunities for workforce re-design across the entire pathway.

The Health Board have also invited the 'Getting It Right First Time' external review team to analyse the situation with stroke services and strengthen the stroke pathway. The Health Board are currently awaiting the final GIRFT report containing recommendations. The full report and recommendations, together with the management response will be submitted to the Partnerships, Population Health, and Planning Committee for discussion.

¹ [The quality statement for stroke | GOV.WALES](#)

² [stroke-delivery-plan-2017-to-2020.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

³ [Rehabilitation: a framework for continuity and recovery 2020 to 2021 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

To gain assurance, monitor performance and hold organisations to account, there are several mechanisms in place, these include:

- Officials hold monthly performance meetings with all health boards where a range of topics are discussed. These meetings are chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive, NHS Wales.
- Twice yearly Joint Executive Team Meetings, chaired by the Chief Executive of NHS Wales, as well as tripartite meetings between Welsh Government, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and Audit Wales. These can be held more often if there are specific concerns.
- Officials work closely with the Stroke Implementation Group and NHS Delivery Unit who provide strategic leadership, support and challenge to NHS organisations in Wales to monitor the performance of stroke services and improvement activity.

I hope this has been helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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