

SUBJECT:	'Services Fit for the Future – Quality and Governance in Health and Care in Wales'
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	11 October 2017

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the Welsh Government White Paper consultation 'Services Fit for the Future – Quality and Governance in Health and Care in Wales'.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the attached paper is submitted to Welsh Government as the Monmouthshire County Council response to the White Paper consultation, 'Services Fit for the Future – Quality and Governance in Health and Care in Wales'.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Welsh Government issued a White Paper 'Services Fit for the Future – Quality and Governance in Health and Care in Wales' in June 2017 for a 3 month consultation period. The White Paper sought to consult on the following matters:

- strengthened leadership in NHS organisations;
- new duties of quality and openness on the NHS and social care;
- a strengthened voice for citizens in the way health and social care is planned and provided;
- design of a clearer process for service change plans;
- improving the legal framework for the inspection and regulation of health services;
- establishing a new independent body for patient voice and regulation and inspection

Consultation responses were sought by Welsh Government on a number of key questions set out in the White Paper. The overall policy aim of the proposals is to legislate to improve standards of quality and governance in the NHS and social care.

The draft response has undertaken to actively consider the questions raised in the White Paper. The content of the response has been strongly informed by a joint Adult and Children's Select Committee on 14 September 2017, which was facilitated by colleagues from Welsh Government leading the consultation. The critical issues which the response sets out are:

- concerns as to how far the consultation to improve quality and governance in health and social care really reflects the person centred culture and practice in social care in Wales that has been developing over a number of years;
- the need for service planning and engagement mechanisms to reflect the need for collaborative working with neighbouring counties in England as well as across Welsh organisational boundaries;
- the need for meaningful measures of ‘what matters’ to people to be at the heart of the quality standards set out in legislation;
- the need to properly understand the resource implications of new standards, particularly on the social care sector;
- the need to ensure really effective mechanisms for local engagement in the work of the organisation that ensures the patient voice is heard.

Overall, whilst the response supports the policy aspirations articulated in the White Paper, the detail of how to improve quality and governance in a meaningful way which ensures the voice of citizens, and specifically vulnerable groups, are heard requires further consideration.

4. REASONS:

This paper provides Monmouthshire County Council’s response to the Welsh Government White Paper Services Fit for the Future – Quality and Governance in Health and Care in Wales’.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The need to understand the potential resource implications of the proposed legislation are highlighted in the consultation response.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

Impact assessments on the proposed legislation will be undertaken by Welsh Government.

7. CONSULTEES:

Joint Adult and Children and Young People’s Select Committee considered the issues in this consultation on 14 September 2017. The Select Committees supported a response by the Cabinet Member via an Individual Cabinet Member Decision, taking into account the views expressed by Members.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Government Consultation Paper ‘ Services Fit for the Future – Quality and Governance in Health and Care in Wales’

9. AUTHOR:

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