



Our ref: WQ92198

Sam Rowlands MS
Senedd Regional Member for North Wales

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8 April 2024

Dear Sam,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me what progress has been made towards digitising social care records.

In July 2023, I launched our Digital and Data Strategy for Health and Social Care in Wales, which sets out our ambition to improve digital infrastructure and connectivity to deliver a secure and sustainable foundation for seamless sharing of health and social care data across services and sectors. This will be delivered by working with organisations, in particular Digital Health and Care Wales, health boards and local authorities to improve how information is shared and accessed across care provider settings; but it is not something that can happen overnight and must be done in a clinically safe and managed way.

A Healthier Wales, Welsh Government's long-term plan for health and social care, sets out the commitment to digital technologies enabling change. The ambition for Connecting Care (the successor to the Welsh Community Care Information System - WCCIS) to deliver a shared care record which facilitates the sharing of data between bodies and provides a standardised national approach to community care across a wide range of adult and children's services, continues to be a commitment of this Government.

Furthermore, there is now a range of new and emerging digital devices and systems that widen the opportunities for people to stay more independent for longer and should contribute to their safety and wellbeing. Enhanced Community Care enabled through Digital Data and Technology Enabled Care provides an opportunity to reassess and reinvent how Health and Social Care is arranged and delivered. The potential application of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) cuts across most services and settings, allowing them to leverage benefits associated with the remote delivery of care.

The direction taken by the Welsh Government is to encourage flexibility of approach, so enabling adoption of new technologies to help foster an environment of innovation to support new ways of working and delivery. New solutions will be designed to support people in Wales through enabling better quality care and outcomes tailored to individual needs and circumstances.

The Welsh Government recognises that not every organisation is currently ready or able to build digital and data services, and with this in mind, close engagement and consultation with Health and Social Care Organisations is crucial to prepare their staff, technology, data and ways of working in order to be ready to develop and deliver digital and data services as set out in the Digital and Data Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

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

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol