**Sent:** 07 July 2021 12:49

Dear Jan Russell

Thank you for your email below. I have been asked to reply on this occasion.

The recent announcement for Adferiad (Recovery) provides non recurrent funding in response to new pressures faced by health boards relating to their population need. Whilst this funding does support the rehabilitation needs of those recovering from COVID 19, it is not intended to be exclusively used for this group. The funding can also be utilised to support other population groups affected by the pandemic e.g. those with additional rehabilitation needs due to waiting for planned care. A steering group is overseeing the implementation of this funding and one of the key principles for this group is to assure there will not be a two tier system for those with long COVID and those with similar existing conditions.

The funding will likely be used by health boards to fund Allied Health Professionals, GP’s and primary and community staff, rehabilitation support workers and develop Primary and Community infrastructure. As we are learning more about long COVID all the time it will also fund high quality, evidence based training and digital resources for all health professionals to assist in diagnosing, investigating and treating long COVID and supporting people in their treatment and rehabilitation.

ME/CFS services are the responsibility of health boards. With the increased focus upon long COVID, we expect any additional training and resource will also help support those with other fatigue related conditions as an increased focus is placed upon them.

As you mentioned, NICE is currently in the process of reviewing its guidelines for the treatment of ME/CFS and is currently on course to publish updated guidelines in August 2021. The Welsh Government has always planned to respond and react to any changes within this guidance. As we await the publication and enter our NHS recovery phase, the Welsh Government are looking to ensure a renewed focus on long term conditions is adopted, ranging from supported self-management to diagnosis and treatment. This renewed consideration will take into account a wide range of voices and research to ensure services provide the level of care required.

You may be interested to know our National Clinical Framework has been published and sets out how clinical services must develop and become a learning health and care system. <https://gov.wales/written-statement-national-clinical-framework-and-quality-statements>. An Implementation Plan for this framework is being developed over the summer, which will outline how this revised approach will be monitored and adopted. Additionally an NHS Executive is currently being devised to create resource that will support Government to provide the strong system leadership and strategic direction which a planned system requires.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Morgan**
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