## Question 1: Initial priorities identified by the Committee

The Committee has identified several potential priorities for work during the Sixth Senedd, including: public health and prevention; the health and social care workforce, including organisational culture and staff wellbeing; access to mental health services; evidence-based innovation in health and social care; support and services for unpaid carers; access to COVID and non-COVID rehabilitation services; and access to services for long-term chronic conditions, including musculoskeletal conditions.

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| Q1. Which of the issues listed above do you think should be a priority, and why? |
| You can comment on as many or few of the issues as you want.In your answers, you might want to think about:* What impact or outcomes could be achieved through any work by the Committee?
* How the Committee might address the issue?
* When any Committee work should take place?
* Whether there are any specific groups, communities or stakeholders that the Committee should involve or hear from in any work?
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| We welcome the initial priorities highlighted by the committee which align closely with those of RCSLT Wales and more broadly with those of AHPs in Wales. We are particularly pleased to see rehabilitation listed amongst the themes. We have provided feedback on particular themes but as a broader point suggest that health inequalities including differences in access, diagnostics, treatments, experiences, funding) be woven as a strand throughout inquiries. Public health and preventionThere has long been talk of a shift from a health and social care system based on illness to one focused on supporting wellbeing. It would be extremely helpful for the committee to consider further the balance of funding between primary and secondary care services and progress on shift of services closer to home and right care, right place, right person provision of services.Access to mental health servicesWe believe such a priority should include a key focus on the current and future workforce. It would be extremely helpful for the committee to scrutinise the development of the upcoming mental heath workforce plan. To what extent will this drive change and will a range of professions considered given recruitment challenges? We would hope such an inquiry would engage widely across service user and professional groups and include professions such as speech and language therapy which are not currently routinely part of core mental health teams but evidence suggests have a great deal to offer. We are part of the Royal College professional body advisory body and believe that body could be hugely supportive in helping support terms of reference for such an inquiry. Access to COVID and non-COVID rehabilitation servicesWe have long called for an inquiry into rehab services and very much welcome the inclusion of this topic within the list of potential inquiries for the committee. We would wish to see this inquiry earlier rather than later in the Senedd term. We believe the terms of reference should explore;the current demand for rehab services and how this differs across Walesbest practice and how this is disseminatedbalance of digital and face to face approaches, current WG policy around rehab.We believe Allied Health Professional bodies should have a key role to play in working with the committee on this inquiry alongside services user organisations such as the Stroke Association, Parkinson’s Association, MNDA etc. We would be keen to explore how we could support such an inquiry via our AHP policy officers group and how service user voices and experiences can be effectively captured. The Health and Social Care WorkforceThe pandemic has brought unprecedented to our health and social care workforce. We would welcome an inquiry into the impact of the pandemic on health and social professionals. Professional bodies would have a great deal to contribute to such an inquiry. We have collated feedback on impact on the profession throughout the pandemic and would wish that any such inquiry would take views from across the workforce and include the views of Allied Health professionals – the third largest workforce in the NHS.  |

## Question 2: Key priorities for the Sixth Senedd

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| Q2. In your view, what other key priorities should the Committee consider during the Sixth Senedd in relation to:1. health services;
2. social care and carers;
3. COVID recovery?
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| You can comment on as many or few of the issues as you want.In your answers, you might want to think about:* What impact or outcomes could be achieved through any work by the Committee?
* How the Committee might address the issue?
* When any Committee work should take place?
* Whether there are any specific groups, communities or stakeholders that the Committee should involve or hear from in any work?
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| a) Health services |
| Neurodevelopmental ServicesWe are very aware that neurodevelopmental services are under very significant pressure and waiting lists have been increased by the pandemic. Members working in these services have fed back to us concerns about sustainability of services and ability to meet need. We would welcome scrutiny of the demand and capacity review currently taking place to support the development of long-term solutions. We believe such an inquiry should include feedback from professional bodies representing health care professionals working in ND teams and service user organisations. We work closely with other professional bodies working in this area and would be very keen to discuss and support further.  |
| b) Social care and carers |
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| c) COVID recovery |
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## Question 3: Any other issues

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| Q3. Are there any other issues you wish to draw to the Committee’s attention? |
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## Submitting evidence

### Guidance on providing written evidence

If you have any questions about this consultation or providing written evidence, please contact us at SeneddHealth@senedd.wales or on 0300 200 6565. You may also wish to read the advice on [“Getting involved with committees”](https://senedd.wales/senedd-business/committees/getting-involved-with-committees/), which explains how to prepare and submit evidence to Senedd committees.

### Official languages

The Senedd has two official languages, Welsh and English. In line with the [Senedd’s Official Languages Scheme](https://senedd.wales/Laid%20Documents/GEN-LD11101/GEN-LD11101-e.pdf), we request that you submit your response in both languages if you are able to do so. If your response is not submitted bilingually, we will publish in the language submitted, stating that it has been received in that language only. We expect other organisations to implement their own standards or schemes and to comply with their statutory obligation.

### How we will use your information

General information regarding consultations, which you should consider carefully before submitting a response to the Committee, is available in our [privacy notice](https://senedd.wales/en/help/privacy/Pages/help-inquiry-privacy.aspx).

### How to submit your response

We prefer to receive evidence digitally (for both practical and sustainability purposes). Please send an electronic copy of your form to SeneddHealth@senedd.wales.

If you cannot provide evidence digitally , you can send a copy to:

Health and Social Care Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Responses should be submitted no later than **16.00 on** **17 September**