



ADSS Cymru

Yn arwain Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru
Leading Social Services in Wales

Communication Release

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National principles agreed to ensure that people who receive social care are supported to take and look after their medicines effectively and safely at home.

The All Wales Heads of Adult Services (AWASH) and NHS Wales today launch a set of high level principles to ensure there is clear and consistent support to enable a person to better manage their medicines. The principles, developed by a multidisciplinary committee comprising of health and social care practitioners, have been approved nationally and endorsed as good practice by key influential stakeholders including Royal Pharmaceutical Society, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), Care Inspectorate Wales and Social Care Wales. The principles which come into effect today, will promote standardisation in medicines policies across Wales.

The principles can be found on the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Cymru website via the following links:

English:

<https://www.adss.cymru/en/category/principles-medicines>

Cymraeg:

<https://www.adss.cymru/cy/category/principles-medicines>

Jason Bennett, Head of Adult Care & Housing, Pembrokeshire County Council.

“Enabling and supporting people to manage their medicines, with help from family members or carers if needed, makes a positive difference to people’s well-being and independence. These principles illustrate the importance of joint working between health professionals and community teams to support people to look after and take their own medicines, and demonstrate a one Wales approach to this element of health and social care”

Judith Vincent, Chair of the All Wales Chief Pharmacist Group:

“The rise in the number of people taking multiple medicines for long-term conditions and the transformation set out in A Healthier Wales, to ensure people are fully supported to be cared for in their own homes, means that medicines support systems must be strengthened to ensure the safe and effective use of medicines in the community. We welcome the principles which can be used as authority to get key conversations started across the different sectors promoting multidisciplinary working. This will enable people get the best possible outcomes from medicines with a reduced risk of medicine related harm.”

Nicola Bent, Director of the System Engagement Programme at NICE:

“People receiving medicines support at home should be able to access the same level of care regardless of their location. We’re therefore pleased to endorse this resource which works alongside NICE guidelines to ensure that health practitioners offer consistent support and advice to patients to take and look after their medicines effectively and safely at home.”

<https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/into-practice/endorsement>

Mair Davies, Director of Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Wales:

“The Royal Pharmaceutical Society in Wales welcomes these guiding principles for medication in the domiciliary care sector. They will be a crucial driver to ensure consistency in the safe handling of medicines in domiciliary care within each local health board and local authority area in Wales. It will lead to greater clarity for front line social care staff involved in the administration of medicines and lead to increased cooperation between pharmacists and the social care sector.”

“These principles align with the Welsh Government’s aim of “integrated health and social care services which are delivered closer to home”, outlined in its long term plan for health and social care, A Healthier Wales. It will also support the recommendation made in Pharmacy: Delivering A Healthier Wales to support mobilisation of the workforce to embed greater collaboration across all sectors including social care to improve safety and patient experience”.

Gillian Baranski, Chief Inspector, Care Inspectorate Wales:

“It is vital people using care services are able to retain their independence and confidently manage their medication, with support from health professionals and care workers. These principles will provide much needed consistency across Wales, and place greater emphasis on developing a national approach to medicines training for care workers and managers.”

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Fferyllydd Ymgynghorol, Arweinydd cenedlaethol ar gyfer Gofal Iechyd Cymunedol