# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TITLE** | **Rebalancing Care and Support Programme – Summary of Consultation Responses Report** |
| **DATE** | **27 November 2023** |
| **BY** | **Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Social Services** |

Ahead of my oral statement tomorrow, I am today announcing the publication of the Rebalancing Care and Support Programme [Summary of Consultation Responses Report](https://www.gov.wales/rebalancing-care-and-support-programme). Members will recall I provided a written statement on 22nd May 2023 announcing the launch of the consultation.

The consultation consisted of:

* Proposals for a National Framework for Commissioned Care and Support
* Proposed functions for a National Office for Care and Support
* Proposals on a draft Pay and Progression Framework for the social care workforce developed by the Social Care Fair Work Forum.
* Proposed changes to the Part 2 Code of Practice and Part 9 Statutory Guidance relating to how local authorities meet their duties under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014,
* Strengthening Regional Partnership Board arrangements to support stronger working between local authorities and the NHS.
* Proposed changes to the Part 8 Code of Practice on the role of the local authority Director of Social Services and the related Local Authority Social Services Annual Report Regulations.

A total of 96 consultation responses were received to the consultation from across a range of sectors and this report provides a summary of the responses along with our response. This Rebalancing Care and support programme of work is one part of our broader work to strengthen social care. The establishment of a National Office for Social Care and a strategic National Framework for Commissioned Care and Support are important steps along the pathway towards our eventual aim of creating a National Care and Support Service for Wales, free at the point of need. This is a key commitment in the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru.

Last year the Plaid Cymru Designated Member and I received the final report of an Expert Group set up to produce recommendations about practical steps towards creating a National Care Service. Over the coming weeks we intend to publish an initial Implementation plan.