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Adult and Children's Health
Medical Directorate
Welsh Government
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14th March 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Together for Health – A Diabetes Delivery Plan

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on *Together for Health – A Diabetes Delivery Plan*.

About the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional body for every pharmacist in Great Britain. We are the only body that represents all sectors of pharmacy in Great Britain.

The RPS leads and supports the development of the pharmacy profession within the context of the public benefit. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy. In addition, it promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums. Its functions and services include:

- **Leadership, representation and advocacy:** promoting the status of the pharmacy profession and ensuring that pharmacy's voice is heard by governments, the media and the public.
- **Professional development, education and support:** helping pharmacists to advance their careers through professional advancement, career advice and guidance on good practice.
- **Professional networking and publications:** creating a series of communication channels to enable pharmacists to discuss areas of common interest.

General Comments

We actively support the Welsh Government's agenda for improving diabetes care and welcome its commitment to minimising the risks of developing diabetes as well as ensuring access to diabetes services of the highest quality in Wales.

As the professional leadership body for pharmacy, we recognise the importance of developing services that support the prevention, early detection and management of diabetes. We also understand the importance of providing professional advice and information to people when they are diagnosed with diabetes and throughout their care journey, supporting them in managing every aspect of this chronic condition. The provision of professional advice about the importance of diet, exercise and other lifestyle issues is as critical in preventing diabetes as it is during the management of this condition and we recognise the need for broad public health initiatives to tackle the lifestyle issues associated with diabetes.

We are pleased therefore that these issues are included in the Diabetes Delivery Plan and provide a broad framework for Local Health Boards (LHBs) to develop plans for high quality services and early detection and prevention of diabetes. We also welcome in particular the emphasis in the Delivery Plan on the importance of partnership working between LHBs, Local Authorities, and the Third Sector. It is unclear in the plan however how partner responsibilities at local levels will be defined and how joint action will be assured in tackling diabetes in our communities across Wales.

Key concerns and recommendations

We were surprised to see this consultation taking place before the Health and Social Care Committee had reported its findings and recommendation from the *inquiry into the implementation of the National Service Framework for diabetes and its future direction in Wales*. The inquiry provided a very comprehensive review of progress made to date in diabetes care in Wales and a wealth of information and recommendations were put forward about the future development of diabetes services in Wales. Our response¹ for example provided a number of important recommendations to the Committee about the medicines management aspects of diabetic care and the changes that are needed to ensure pharmacists can contribute more fully to improving the care of people with diabetes.

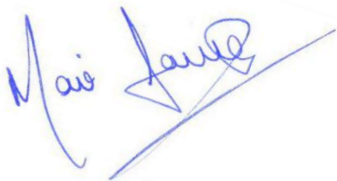
While we welcome the Diabetes Delivery Plan as a broad framework for improving diabetes care, we would be disappointed if the recommendations of the Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into the NSF for diabetes were not given serious consideration in the future development of

¹ National Assembly for Wales, *Inquiry into the implementation of the National Service Framework for diabetes and its future direction in Wales*, [Consultation Response DB-23 Royal Pharmaceutical Society](#)

diabetes services across Wales. We therefore **recommend** that the Welsh Government communicates to LHBs its response to the final recommendations of the Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry into diabetes for consideration for implementation by all Diabetes Planning and Delivery Groups (DPDGs).

I trust this information is helpful. If any further information is required please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mair Davies', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Mrs Mair Davies

Chair, Welsh Pharmacy Board