COVID-19 Trafodaeth Gyffredinol

Cyfarwyddwyd i AC oddi wrth Gymdeithas Brydeinig Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol (BASW)

Cefndir

O'r chwech o themâu a amlinellwyd gan y Dirprwy Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yng Nghynllun Gwaith Cartrefi Gofal yng Ngorffennaf, roedd dau ohonynt yn ymwneud a llesiant preswylwyr mewn cartrefi gofal. Fel rhan o hyn, mae'r thema yn datgan bydd y Dirprwy Gweinidog yn rhannu'r hyn mae preswylwyr cartrefi gofal wedi dweud wrthynt am yr hyn sy'n bwysig iddynt hwy er mwyn cynorthwyo gyda'u llesiant. Y dyddiad anelu ato yw Rhagfyr 2020.

Mae'r ddogfen yn datgan hefyd bod y Llywodraeth am hybu trefn sy'n seiliedig ar hawliau ymweld a sicrhau bod cydbwysedd rhwng diogelu preswylwyr o COVID-19 a hybu iechyd a llesiant y preswylwyr mewn cartrefi gofal trwy gyswllt hollbwysig gyda'r rhai sydd yn annwyl iddynt, ond mae'r targed yma yn un sy'n bodoli ac mae preswylwyr cartrefi gofal a'r rhai sy'n rhoi gwasanaeth iddynt angen cael mwy o sicrwydd ar sut i gyflawni hyn - https://gov.wales/care-homes-action-plan-summary-progress-html

Mewn perthynas ag ymwelwyr proffesiynol, nid yw'r crynodeb o gynnydd yng Nghynllun Gwaith Cartrefi Gofal yn cyfeirio at weithwyr cymdeithasol ac mae'n son am wasanaeth fideo ymgynghori i Feddygon Teulu. Rydym ni yn BASW o'r farn bod gan weithwyr cymdeithasol rhan hanfodol yn y gwaith o sicrhau llesiant preswylwyr cartrefi gofal ac y dylent gael eu trin fel ymwelwyr proffesiynol gyda hawl mynediad corfforol i ymweld â chleifion er mwyn cyflawni eu dyletswyddau statudol ac anstatudol.

Mae Cyfarwyddwr Cenedlaethol BASW Cymru wedi codi'r mater o'r angen i weithwyr cymdeithasol cael profion rheolaidd er mwyn sicrhau y gallent ddiogelu hawliau pobl fregus mewn cartrefi gofal gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol ar fwy nag un achlysur, megis cyfarfodydd wythnosol Partneriaeth yr Undebau Llafur ag yn ystod y cyfnod clo cyntaf.

Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol fel Ymwelwyr Proffesiynol

Yng Nghymru, ni chydnabyddir bod gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn weithwyr proffesiynol o ran sefyllfaoedd gofal ac iechyd er bod ganddynt ddyletswyddau statudol ag anstatudol ar ran awdurdodau lleol a'r GIG yn cynnwys:

- Cynnal asesiadau risg gydag unigolion, teuluoedd a gofalwyr.
- Hybu llesiant
- Hybu hawliau dynol
- Gweithredu Deddf Gallu Feddyliol a Diogelu rhag Colli Rhyddid
- Adfocatiaeth ar ran pobl a'u teuluoedd mewn perthynas â mynediad diogel, o gofio sylwadau a dymuniadau: y gorffennol a'r presennol
- Trosolwg allanol o drefniadau
- Diogelwch - atal ag ymyrraeth gynnar

- Cefnogaeth i bobl, teuluoedd, sefyllfaoedd gofal, cyswllt gyda gweithwyr proffesiynol eraill

Ni all llawer o bobl sy'n byw mewn cartrefi gofal roi caniatâd am eu gofal a'u triniaeth, a dyma le mae Deddf Gallu Feddyliol a Diogelu rhag Colli Rhyddid yn bwysig i ddiogelu eu hawliau a rhyddid dynol.

Heb gael mynediad at osodiadau gofal ac iechyd, mae gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn cael hi'n anodd cynnal asesiadau gallu meddyliol neu i bwyso a mesur yr hyn sydd orau i bobl, yn angenrheidiol ac yn gymesur, a'r dewis sydd leiaf cyfyngol. Mae dibyniaeth enbyd ar wybodaeth gan drydydd parti neu wybodaeth anghyflawn ar roi barnau gwybodus proffesiynol, ac mae hyn yn codi dilemâu a heriau moesegol

Er mwyn sicrhau'r lles gorau i bobl, rhaid i weithwyr cymdeithasol cael eu hystyried i fod yn ymwelwyr proffesiynol a'u bod yn cael mynediad diogel at y rhai maent yn ymweld â hwy i'w hasesu. Mae gan weithwyr cymdeithasol rôl unigryw a phwysig wrth hybu ag amddiffyn hawliau dynol.

Ymweliadau gan deuluoedd a chyfeillion

Mae BASW yn hollol gefnogol i'r datganiad a wnaed gan y Fforwm Gofal Cenedlaethol ag AGE UK am y rôl hollbwysig gall ymweliadau cael fel rhan o wella cyflwr iechyd cymdeithasol / emosiynol y preswylwyr. Mae'r methiant i ddiffinio'r effaith therapiwtig pwysig gall ymweliadau cael yn lleihau'r effaith gall ymweliadau, neu atal ymweliadau, cael ar unigolion a theuluoedd.

Ymgyrch BASW Cymru: Profi, Mynediad Diogel, Hybu Hawliau

Profi - Rhaid i Weithwyr Cymdeithasol Proffesiynol Penodedig sy'n Ymweld cael profion Covid-19 pob wythnos a chael canlyniadau negyddol i'r profion cyn cael ymweld â rhywun sydd mewn lleoliad iechyd neu ofal a chynhaliaeth byw

Mynediad Diogel - Rhaid i Weithwyr Cymdeithasol cael blaenoriaeth i gael mynediad at bobl sydd mewn gosodiadau gofal, iechyd a chynhaliaeth byw trwy brofion, rheolaeth drwyadl o heintiau, cael at ddeunydd diogelu personol (PPE)

Hybu Hawliau – Fel proffesiwn mae ein gwerthoedd craidd sylfaenol yn seiliedig ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol ac ar hybu hawliau dynol.

Cwestiynau a awgrymir i ofyn i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol - 4ydd Tachwedd

- Ydi'r Gweinidog yn cytuno gyda fi bod ymgyrch Gymdeithas Brydeinig Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru, wrth ganolbwyntio ar brofion i weithwyr proffesiynol, sicrhau mynediad diogel iddynt i gartrefi gofal, a hybu hawliau dynol pobl a'u teuluoedd wedi bod yn un pwysig?
- A fydd y Gweinidog yn dosbarthu cyfarwyddyd i bob cartref gofal mor fuan ag sy'n rhesymol i wneud hyn, i wneud yn eglur nad 'diwedd oes' yw'r unig eithriad neilltuol lle gall ymweliad digwydd, ac i gynorthwyo cartrefi gofal trwy hwyluso ymweliadau fel rhan o lesiant y bobl sy'n byw yna?
- A wnaiff y Gweinidog cadarnhau bydd Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol yn cael eu hychwanegu ar y rhestr o ymwelwyr proffesiynol i gartrefi gofal?

Manylion am BASW

Cymdeithas Brydeinig Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol (BASW) yw'r gymdeithas broffesiynol i waith cymdeithasol yn y DU, gyda swyddfeydd yn Lloegr, Gogledd Iwerddon, yr Alban a Chymru. Efo aelodaeth o dros 21,000, rydym yn bodoli i hybu'r gwasanaethau gwaith cymdeithasol gorau posibl i bawb sydd ei hangen, tra hefyd yn diogelu llesiant gwerthwyr cymdeithasol sy'n gweithio yn holl osodiadau iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol.

COVID-19 General Debate

Briefing for MSs from the British Association of Social Workers

Background

Two of the six themes set out by the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services in the Care Homes Action Plan in July were on the wellbeing of residents in care homes. As part of this, the theme says that the Deputy Minister will share what residents of care homes have told them about what matters to them to assist with their wellbeing. This has a target date of December 2020.

The document also said that the Government will promote a rights-based approach to visiting and ensure the balance is struck between protecting residents from COVID-19 and promoting the health and wellbeing of care home residents through vital contact with loved ones, but this is an ongoing target and people who live in care homes and the providers need more certainty about when this will be achieved - https://gov.wales/care-homes-action-plan-summary-progress-html

In regard to professional visitors, the Care Homes Action Plan summary of progress does not talk about social workers and refers to video consultation service for GPs. We at BASW believe that social workers are integral to ensuring the wellbeing of care home residents and should be treated as professional visitors with physical access to patients to carry out our statutory and non-statutory duties.

The National Director of BASW Cymru has raised the issue of social workers needing to be regularly tested in order to ensure that they were able to safeguard the rights of vulnerable people in care homes with the Minister for Health and Social Services on more than one occasion, such as in the weekly Trade Union Partnership meetings and during the first lockdown.

Social Workers as Professional Visitors

In Wales, social workers are currently not recognised as professional visitors for the purposes of care and health settings despite having statutory and non-statutory duties on behalf of local authorities and the NHS including:

- Undertaking risk assessments with individuals, families and carers
- Promotion of well-being
- Promotion of human rights
- Application of the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Advocating on behalf of people and their families in relation to safe access, taking account of views and wishes: past and present
- External oversight of arrangements
- Safeguarding – prevention and early intervention
- Support to people, families, care settings, liaison with other professionals

Many people in care homes are unable to consent to their care and treatment, and this is where the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards are important to protect their human rights and liberty.

Without access to care and health settings, social workers are struggling to carry out mental capacity assessments or weigh in the balance what is in a person's best interests, necessary and proportionate and the least restrictive option. There is a heavy reliance on third party or incomplete information to inform professional judgements which raises ethical dilemmas and challenges.

To ensure that the best interests of a person are being met, social workers need to be considered as professional visitors and given safe access to those whose interests they are there to assess. Social workers have a unique and important role in promoting and upholding human rights.

Visits by family and friends

BASW fully supports the statement made by the National Care Forum and AGE UK about the vital role that visiting can play in improving the individual social/emotional health of resident. The failure to define the important therapeutic impact that visiting can have diminishes the impact that visiting, or the suspension of visiting, may have upon individuals and families.

BASW Wales campaign: Test, Safe Access, Promote Rights

Test - Designated Social Worker Professional Visitors must be tested for Covid-19 on a weekly basis and have negative test results prior to visiting someone in a health or care setting and supported living.

Safe Access - Social Workers must be given priority access to people in care, health and supported living settings through testing, rigorous infection control, access to personal protective equipment (PPE).

Promote Rights - As a profession our fundamental core values are built upon social justice and the promotion of human rights.

Suggested questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services – 4th November

- Does the Minister agree with me that the campaign being run in Wales by the British Association of Social Workers focused on testing professionals, giving them safe access to care homes, and promoting the human rights of people and their families is an important one?
- Will the Minister issue guidance to all care homes as soon as reasonably possible to clarify that 'end of life' is not the only exceptional circumstance in which visitation can take place, and support care homes in facilitating visitation as a means of well-being for the people who live there?
- Will the Minister confirm that Social Workers will be added to the list of professional visitors to care homes?

About BASW

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) is the professional association for social work in the UK, with offices in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. With over 21,000 members, we exist to promote the best possible social work services for all people who may need them, while also securing the well-being of social workers working in all health and social care settings.