



MS: Voice for Change

Why MS matters in Wales

Treat me right

Only 30% of people with relapsing remitting MS who are eligible for drug treatments are taking them. People living with MS in Wales are less likely to access specialist help when they need to. There is a lack of resources and infrastructure in Wales.

We ask our Assembly Members to lobby their Local Health Boards to ensure:

- That a treatment plan is agreed with people living with relapsing-remitting MS, within six months of diagnosis
- Every person with MS is offered a review at least once annually, typically including an MRI scan
- Every person with MS has access to a single point of contact who acts as a care and treatment coordinator and that care and treatment should be made available through multi-disciplinary teams
- Once medicines are approved by NICE/ AWMSG, Local Health Boards make them readily available across Wales
- People living with MS are given the skills and confidence to play an equal role in making treatment decisions
- An end to the harmful 'wait and see' treatment culture
- That a fairer, more efficient and safer service is available across Wales

For a full copy of our manifesto, visit www.mssociety.org.uk/Waleselection

4,900+
people in Wales
are living
with MS

300
people are newly
diagnosed with
the condition
every year

Make welfare make sense

More than a third of people living with MS who claim disability benefits are finding problematic assessments are harming their health. People living with MS have experienced a lack of understanding of the condition and a failure to use information from medical professionals.

We ask our Assembly Members to challenge the Welsh and UK Governments to:

- Utilise opportunities in the Welsh Assembly to raise specific concerns about the welfare assessment process for people living with MS to help ensure that it:
 - accurately takes into account the fluctuating and hidden symptoms of MS and their impact
 - properly includes evidence provided by experienced professionals who know the person and understand their condition
- Push the UK Government to undertake a full impact assessment of any further changes they make to disability benefits, including exploring the knock on effects on other areas of public spending such as health and social care

Give people living with MS in Wales a voice

Understanding of MS and its symptoms is still poor amongst decision-makers and the general public, and the voices of people living with MS are not always heard when local services are planned.

We ask our Assembly Members to:

- Establish a relationship with the MS community: Speak to your local MS Society branch and join the Cross Party Group (CPG) for neurological conditions
- Make sure MS is recognised and understood by health and social care decision makers in your area
- Challenge and change the way society talks about welfare and disability: Take active steps to reduce the harassment and abuse of disabled people. Promote the positive impact that sustainable and comprehensive support for disabled people can have, and oppose policies that serve to reinforce negative perceptions about those who need support



MS Society Cymru is the Wales-wide charity dedicated to supporting people living with, or affected by MS. Our mission is to enable everyone affected by MS to live life to their full potential and secure the care and support they need, until we ultimately find a cure.



The National Assembly of Wales and Welsh Government have a proud tradition of blazing the trail on policy development.

Please join us to build on the positive aspects of the existing service and develop a world-class network of MS care in Wales.

Take action

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