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Dear Colleagues,

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) & Long Covid

I am writing to let you know that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is continuing its work to prioritise improvements for people with ME/CFS (and Long Covid). The former health secretary, Sajid Javid, announced several government initiatives in the summer that we hope will lead to:

- early and accurate diagnoses with better and more accessible health and social care support,
- improved training for health and social care professionals,
- help with the recruitment and retention of specialist clinicians in secondary care,
- a national strategy for research.

The ME Association (MEA) is represented on each of the 3 DHSC working groups and a delivery plan is expected early in 2023 that will explain how these initiatives will be implemented in the years ahead.

Together with the 2021 NICE Clinical Guideline on ME/CFS these developments will also be used to help the devolved nations make similar improvements to health and social care services and become more responsive to the needs of patients with ME/CFS (and Long Covid).

For example, Scotland will be using the NICE Guideline to improve the Scottish Good Practice Statement on ME/CFS, and the Isle of Man has recently opened a new ME/CFS & Long Covid specialist service that has built upon the Guideline's recommendations.

Please find enclosed a recent issue of the ME Association's 'ME Medical' magazine that explains these core developments, information about online CPD training modules for healthcare professionals, and several booklets that you might like to read and make available to the staff and patients in your practice.

If you have any questions about these DHSC initiatives, ME/CFS, Long Covid, or the NICE Clinical Guideline, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With kind regards,

Dr Charles Shepherd
Trustee and Hon. Medical Adviser, The ME Association.

MEA 'ME Medical' magazine sign-up: <https://meassociation.org.uk/health-care-professionals/>

MEA Medical Matters: <https://meassociation.org.uk/medical-matters/>

MEA Literature on ME/CFS, Covid-19, and Long Covid: <https://meassociation.org.uk/me-association-shop/>