



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/1915/19

Jack Sargeant AM
AM for Alyn and Deeside
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 May 2019

Dear Jack,

Thank you for asking for a statement and update on the Caergwrle community pharmacy Sore Throat Test and Treat (STTT) pilot scheme during the Business Questions on 7 May.

I was very pleased to hear of the success of the scheme and your recognition of the impact it is already having in the area.

The STTT service is delivered through our Choose Pharmacy initiative and is being piloted in Caergwrle amongst other sites before analysis. Whilst initial evaluation results are very promising it is premature to make a statement at this time given the season for sore throats has not yet arrived and the service has therefore not been tested under a maximum demand situation.

A full evaluation of the pilot will be available in June 2019 and following this, we will consider whether to make the service available in all pharmacies on a nationally commissioned basis in time for the sore throat season and winter pressures at the end of the year.

I am pleased that the STTT pilot has been shortlisted in the Innovation and Technology category at the 2019 Antibiotic Guardian Awards – the winners will be announced on 27 June.

Community pharmacy teams have always supported people to manage common, minor ailments and we have strengthened this by introducing the Common Ailments Service. This service is a good example of how we can more effectively utilise the skills of all healthcare professionals to improve access to services in primary care. Making services and technology like this available from pharmacies takes pressure off GPs, Out of Hours services and accident and emergency departments.

I hope you have found my response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services