

*These notes refer to the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement)
(Wales) Act 2020 (c.1) which received Royal Assent on 1 June 2020*

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (QUALITY AND ENGAGEMENT) (WALES) ACT 2020

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 4: The Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care

Section 23 – Abolition of Community Health Councils, and connected matters

64. This section abolishes Community Health Councils and the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales by the repeal of section 182 of and Schedule 10 to the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006. Community Health Councils were established under section 182 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 to represent the interests of the public in the health service. They also provide independent advocacy services, by virtue of arrangements made with the Welsh Ministers under section 187 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006. These functions will be exercised by the Citizen Voice Body with the addition of functions relating to social care.
65. **Part 2** of Schedule 3 makes consequential amendments related to the abolition of the Community Health Councils and the Board of Community Health Councils and creation of the Citizen Voice Body. The Community Health Councils were initially established in 1974 in England and Wales and continued in existence in Wales by virtue of section 182 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006. A number of Acts of Parliament such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Equality Act 2010 refer to Community Health Councils, as do a number of Welsh Acts, such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016. This Part of the Schedule removes references to the Community Health Council and Board of Community Health Councils in Wales and, where appropriate, adds a reference to the Citizen Voice Body.
66. This section also introduces Schedule 2 to the Act which enables the Welsh Ministers to transfer property, rights and liabilities which currently exist in relation to Community Health Councils to the Citizen Voice Body. The Welsh Ministers must lay any scheme before the Senedd, as provided in paragraph 1(6).