

**Eluned Morgan MS**

Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language

18 November 2020

Dear Minister

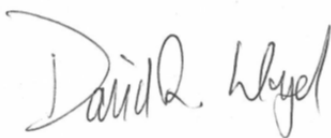
**Welsh Government Draft Budget 2021-22**

In line with our usual practice, I am writing in advance of the publication of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2021-22 to request written information to inform the Committee's scrutiny.

We note the Welsh Government's intention to publish the Draft Budget on 21 December 2020, and we would like to hold an oral evidence session with you early in the New Year. The Clerk will liaise with your office about dates.

To assist with our preparations, I would be grateful to receive the detailed information outlined in the Annexe to this letter, along with any other information that you wish to provide, by Tuesday 22 December.

Yours sincerely



Dr Dai Lloyd MS  
**Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee**



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## Annexe 1

### **Request for information from the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language from the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to inform scrutiny of draft budget 2021-22**

#### **Prioritisation of resources**

An explanation of how your priorities for mental health and well-being are reflected in the Draft Budget 2021-22, and where the allocated/ projected spend for these priorities can be found (e.g. a breakdown of the 2021-22 Health and Social Services MEG allocation by Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line), including;

- Mental health services (including the Mental Health Service Improvement Fund)
- Dementia
- Autism
- Substance Misuse (including the Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund)
- Veteran's health
- Patient's experience
- Obesity/ implementation of 'Healthy Weight, Health Wales'.

The percentage/ proportion of the Welsh budget that is allocated to mental health and well-being in the Draft Budget and how this compares to previous years. Details of any reductions or increases relating to specific areas of the Draft Budget compared to previous years (e.g. grants being reduced or ceasing to exist altogether/ being increased or introduced).

The extent to which the five ways of working in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has influenced your priorities/ allocations to budget lines within the Health and Social Services MEG (i.e. the extent to which the most disadvantaged are prioritised and their needs are being met through this Draft Budget).

How the Draft Budget funding allocations will support delivery of the revised Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan, including details of the financial support for charities and the Third Sector in supporting those with mental health issues (i.e. advice services, suicide prevention helplines).

#### **The impact COVID-19 has had on allocations**

Details of how the pandemic has influenced allocations to budget lines within the Health and Social Services MEG, including examples of any changes made to allocations within the Draft Budget from previous years - as a result of COVID-19. Specifically;

- Whether the funding for mental health and well-being, across all areas of your portfolio, has been protected/ increased/ reduced during the pandemic and how these changes are



reflected in the Draft Budget (i.e. examples of the extra investment in mental health inpatient capacity – the sustainability of this in the short and longer term). Details of the repurposing of funding from the Mental Health Service Improvement Fund and Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales programme that has taken place. How this is reflected in the Draft Budget.

- What proportion of the increased revenue from reserves, transfers within portfolios and/ or adjustments to the Wales budget has been/ will be repurposed to BELs to respond to the mental health and well-being impacts of the pandemic. How does this compare to physical health.
- How allocations in the Draft Budget demonstrate a commitment to tackle health inequalities, exacerbated by the pandemic and/or where the pandemic and lockdown measures have had a disproportionate impact on the well-being of certain groups of people (such as older adults, BAME Communities and those on low incomes or who are otherwise financially insecure). How their needs will be met (i.e. access to primary care mental health support, investment in psychological therapies, suicide prevention, tackling loneliness and isolation, addressing unhealthy behaviours such as substance misuse, over-eating).
- Specific detail on the spending allocations within the Draft Budget for mental health support services for the health and social care workforce, alongside an explanation of whether the Draft Budget includes a specific allocation for extra staff resource with regards to the mental health workforce, particularly in supporting those with dementia and autism.

### **Cross government/ sector working**

- Examples of allocations within the Draft Budget which demonstrate the Welsh Government is taking a 'whole system', cross government and joined up approach to improving people's mental health and well-being - recognising the wider determinants of mental health and well-being (i.e. that it does not just lie within the NHS). How to ensure the focus on prevention/ early intervention is not lost as a result of the pandemic and how this reflected in the Draft Budget allocations.
- Details of how you are engaging with Health Boards to ensure the allocation in the Draft Budget for mental health provision is sufficient to meet the demand for services, including an assessment of how effective the Mental Health Service Improvement Fund has been in enabling Health Boards to respond to the mental health needs of the population, such as in crisis care and psychological intervention. Whether the amount of planned spending by Health Boards on mental health services within the NHS has gone up or down as a result of the pandemic.



## **Impact assessment**

- Your view on the impact this Draft Budget will have on improving people's mental health and well-being across all areas of your portfolio, particularly in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

## **Children and young people's mental health and well-being**

We understand that you will be giving evidence to the Children, Young People and Education Committee, specifically looking at the Draft Budget/ expenditure on children and young people in relation to their mental health and well-being (e.g. funding for schools to improve school counselling etc).

Whilst we will not duplicate this work, it would be helpful for members of this Committee to see your letter to the Children, Young People and Education Committee, setting out how you intend to prioritise children and young people's mental health and well-being in the Draft Budget.

