

CYPE(6)-05-21 - Paper to note 8

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cf99 1SN

25 October 2021

Dear Jayne,

As you are aware improving the emotional and mental wellbeing of citizens is a longstanding priority of the Welsh Government. The 2021-26 Programme for Government (PfG) builds on the actions of previous administrations and commits to '*prioritise investment in mental health*'. This is further embedded within the PfG, which contains a number of wellbeing commitments, including in relation to children and young people and the role of education in supporting and promoting wellbeing. The wellbeing of children and young people is also a particular focus of our response and recovery from the Covid19 pandemic.

The Welsh Government has been supported in its work by the Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee, which has prioritised the scrutiny of wellbeing support. This resulted in the publication of the *Mind over matter* report (2018) and the follow-up report *Mind over matter: two years on* (2020).

Our response to *Mind over matter* was to convene the Joint Ministerial Group on a Whole School Approach (extended to the whole system approach) to Wellbeing in late 2018. The Group was jointly chaired by the then Minister for Education and Minister for Health and Social Services and has successfully supported policy development and service delivery. The Group continues to support activity in this area and is now chaired jointly by us as the Ministers responsible for education and mental health and wellbeing. The Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee also previously had a seat on the Group and fully participated in discussions and deliberations, though reserving the right to scrutinise Ministerial decisions in line with the role of Committee Chair.

As noted the Group's remit was extended to encompass the 'whole system' approach. This brings within its scope the *Framework on embedding a whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing* (March 2021¹); and the *NEST/NYTH Framework* (May 2021²)

¹ [WG42005 \(gov.wales\)](#)

² [The NEST Framework - NHS Wales Health Collaborative](#)

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

published by the NHS led Together for Children and Young People Programme. Taken together these two documents have the potential to ensure all the wellbeing needs of not only children and young people, but also the key adults in their lives (parents, teachers, etc) are met in a timely and appropriate manner.

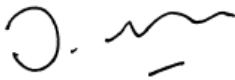
The Group has met twice under the sixth Welsh Government and we have been considering its wider role in supporting activity. We are in agreement that focus now needs to shift from policy development to implementation and delivery and we signalled this at the last Group meeting on 21 September.

Now the sixth Senedd's Committee structure has been established we would be pleased if you would be willing to join the Group in your capacity as Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee and on the same terms as the previous Chair (i.e. full participation, though reserving your right to scrutinise the Welsh Government).

If you are content the next meeting date has yet to be set, though is likely to be sometime during November or early December. We will ensure dates do not clash with future Committee meetings.

For information we enclose the membership of the Group and terms of reference, though both will be subject to change to reflect the new focus on delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and
Welsh Language



Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a
Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and
Wellbeing

Whole School Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group membership/contacts

Minister for Education and the Welsh Language	Jeremy Miles MS
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing	Lynne Neagle MS
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee	
Deputy Director Equity in Education	Kirsty Davies Warner
NHS Lead Chief Executive for Mental Health	Carol Shillabeer
Public Health Wales Director of Health Improvement	Dr Julie Bishop
Secondary Head-teacher (Lewis Boys School)	Chris Parry
Association Directors of Social Services, Heads of Children's Services	Andrew Jarret (NPT)
WG Director of Social Services and Integration	Albert Heaney
WG SMO (GPs)	Dr Liz Davies
Estyn	Mark Champion
Regional Education Consortia	Kathryn Bevan
DECIPHer (schools health research network)	Prof Simon Murphy
Children's Commissioner for Wales	Prof Sally Holland
Chief Medical Officer	Dr Heather Payne
Chief Nursing Officer	Karen Jewell Hazel Powell
Primary Head-teacher	Paula Vaughan
LHB Vice Chair representative	John Hill Tout
CMO Adviser on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Dr Dave Williams
Psychology Representative	Dr Liz Gregory
WLGA spokesperson for HSS	Cllr Jane Mudd
Welsh Government, Deputy Director for Substance Misuse	Tracey Breheny
Principal Youth Officers Group	David Williams
Chief Executive, Children in Wales	Owen Evans
NHS Executive	Lesley Singleton
Pembrokeshire College	Jackie Mathias

Terms of Reference - Ministerial Task and Finish Group on a Whole System Approach to Wellbeing

Purpose of the Group:

The Task and Finish Group has been established by the Welsh Government to take forward the whole system approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health which also recognises the links between mental and physical wellbeing. In achieving this, the Group will have regard to the recommendations and findings in the Children, Young People and Education Committee Mind Over Matter report (April 2018).

The Mind Over Matter report highlights the need for a 'step-change' in emotional and mental health support for children and young people in Wales. As such we need to review existing policies and practices on children and young people's mental health; identify gaps in provision; and, develop new and effective ways of working to accelerate improvement of the support system for children and young people.

Scope

As the Mind over Matter report highlights, and as set out in our National Mission, school is a key setting to support and promote positive physical and mental health and well-being. For this reason, we are taking a "whole school" approach initially, situating the school at the centre of the work of the group.

However, this approach needs to be seen in the context of a "whole system" approach which recognises that school is at the centre of activity, but has a range of interdependencies which extend beyond the classroom to home, community and services provided by other statutory and non-statutory agencies.

The Group will ensure that policy and practice across government supports positive physical and mental health and well-being for children and young people. This will be taken forward in a cross-government and cross-sector way, seeking advice from sector experts, children and young people, and others to ensure that the UNCRC is at the heart of this work.

For the purpose of this group, the work streams will be broken down into "whole school" and "whole system" so that appropriate focus can be given to both.

Principles

The principles underpinning this are:

- Support must be both universal and targeted (diagram 1 illustrates this).
- Support must be appropriate, timely and effective.
- Support must focus on prevention, restorative practice and on effective and timely intervention when this is needed.
- Support should avoid the medicalisation of children and centre the needs and the wishes of the children and young people involved.
- Support should be provided through a multi-agency approach, and should include building skills for effective multi-agency working.
- Support should be provided to the education sector and in particular schools, to build capacity for them to support children and young people in turn.

Diagram 1 1



Programme membership and structure

Accountable to the Cabinet Secretaries for Health and Social Services and for Education (co-Chairs) the Task and Finish Group will provide strategic leadership, direction and support, to implement the whole school (part of a whole system) approach to improve the emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

The Group will meet a frequency determined by Ministers. Current membership is attached separately:

Deputies

Members can nominate a deputy, though for continuity and recognising the need to maintain senior stakeholder engagement, deputies would only be acceptable for no more than one in three meetings, as individuals have been invited recognising their senior role as strategic influencers and decision takers.

Subgroups

The Group will be supported by a Stakeholder Reference Group. The Stakeholder Reference Group will encompass a wider range of public sector, third sector and other relevant organisations or people. Children and young people will have the opportunity to inform, develop and shape activity through representation on a National Youth Stakeholder Group.

Frequency of meetings

The Group will meet at least once every Assembly term (three times per year), and can convene on a more frequent basis should this be required and as determined by ministers.

Work-programme

The role of the group will be to agree and oversee implementation of the work-plan; advising on issues, barriers and activity to overcome them as they arise; and representing the views of their sectors and area of expertise as it impacts on the development and implementation of activity over the lifespan of the programme.

The Group's work-programme will be a dynamic and evolving reflecting the Group's current thinking and priorities, issues and challenges as they arise and impact policy and practice. In taking activity forward the Group will take account of wider activity, including specifically the on-going work of the NHS-led Together for Children and Young People Programme.