

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1227  
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/10341/21  
Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

14 December 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November about a petition to establish a specialist mental health mother and baby unit in North Wales.

The Welsh Government has committed to ensuring that mother and baby unit (MBU) provision is made available for mothers who live in North Wales. We recognise the importance for new mothers being able to get the specialist support they need for themselves and their babies closer to home. Having virtually visited the MBU in Swansea earlier this year, I have seen the important impact it can make. In my role as Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, I have asked for and had regular updates on this and I have recently met with the leads from the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) to discuss this development.

The modelling undertaken in Wales has evidenced that we do not have enough demand to have a standalone unit in North Wales. Therefore we have been working collaboratively with NHS England to develop a joint unit in North West England which will be accessible from North Wales. There continues to be significant engagement between Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee and NHS England regarding the development of this new unit.

I have asked for this work to be taken forward with real urgency and pace. I will continue to receive very regular updates from officials and recently met with WHSCC again to drive this work forward. I have also offered my support to officials in the collaboration with NHS England in order to ensure that this is driven forward at pace.

I can also confirm we are working with the provider to support the Welsh language needs of our patients when developing the unit.

Yours sincerely,

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

Lynne Neagle

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