



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1227  
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00063/22  
Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

24 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your further letter of 14 February about the petition to establish a specialist mental health mother and baby unit in North Wales, seeking further clarification on a number of concerns. Please see information in response below

- *the specific plans for the development of a Mother and Baby Unit for North Wales and where it will be located;*

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee is working with NHS England as the proposal progresses through the necessary planning stages in NHS England. The exact location will be confirmed once the business case is agreed but I can assure you that a key condition is that the unit will provide good access for North Wales.

- *the anticipated timescale for the work that needs to be carried out to develop the Mother and Baby Unit and when the provision will be available;*

The timescales are dependent on NHS England's planning process and I understand that the aim is to achieve sign-off of the business case by late summer 2022 and for the service to be operational around 18 months after final approval. I have requested for officials to work with WHSSC to identify any opportunities to accelerate these timescales if possible.

- *How women and families with lived experience from North Wales are being consulted and involved in the development;*

We recognise the importance of engagement with those with lived experience and there will be liaison with clinicians from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and service users throughout the process. An engagement sub group will be established as part of formal

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@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.

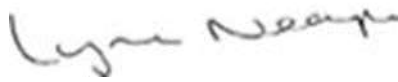
business case process. The National Perinatal Clinical Lead will also be involved to ensure that these links are as robust as possible.

- *What Welsh language provision will be provided within the unit?*

We have been clear about our expectation that the new service will take Welsh language needs into consideration, but we do recognise the challenges, particularly for services that require highly specialist staff. NHS England has committed to providing literature & signage in the Welsh language and have made a commitment to recruit Welsh speaking staff whenever possible.

Further updates on this work will be made available through our regular progress updates to the Children Young People and Education Committee on their Perinatal Mental Health report recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant  
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing