

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a
Gofal Cymdeithasol**

—
**Health and Social Care
Committee**

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

—
**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

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Lynne Neagle MS
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Welsh Government

11 July 2022

Dear Lynne

Mental health and wellbeing: Committee recommendations

During the Fifth Senedd, the Health, Social Care and Sport, and Children, Young People and Education Committees did significant and substantial work on the mental health and wellbeing of people in Wales. We plan, through the work of our Sixth Senedd committees, to build on our predecessors' work on these important matters.

As the remits of our Committees overlap in respect of the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, we are writing jointly to seek an update on our predecessors' recommendations.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the issues raised in the annex by **1 September 2022**.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair, Children, Young People and Education
Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Annex: Request for information

To inform our Committees' work on mental health and wellbeing, for each of the reports listed below, we would welcome:

1. An indication of which recommendations the Welsh Government considers still to be outstanding and where further action is needed, whether there are any barriers to implementing these, and if so, what those barriers are.
2. How the Welsh Government's work to implement the recommendations is contributing to tackling mental health inequalities.

We would be grateful to receive your response by **1 September 2022**.

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee reports

The Fifth Senedd's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee maintained a determined focus on mental health. In addition to exploring issues relating to mental health throughout its scrutiny of Welsh Government budgets, general scrutiny of health and social care Ministers, and its other inquiry work, the Committee undertook inquiries on:

- Loneliness and isolation (December 2017)
The report made six recommendations, including: the timescales for developing a loneliness and isolation strategy; a cross-departmental approach (especially in relation to dementia and carers); assessing the impact of loneliness and isolation on mental health and the subsequent impact on public services; working with the voluntary sector to secure funding stability; evaluating the impact of intergenerational contact; and an awareness-raising campaign to change attitudes and address stigma. In its February 2018 response, the Welsh Government accepted four recommendations, and partially accepted two.
- Use of antipsychotic medication in care homes (May 2018)
The report made eleven recommendations, including: improving data collection and publication; compliance with NICE guidelines; person-centred care assessments for people with dementia; issues relating to medication reviews; access to allied health professionals; dementia care training; and a review of the levels and appropriateness of the use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia in secondary care. In its July 2018 response, the Welsh Government accepted, or accepted in principle, ten of the recommendations, and rejected one. The Cabinet Secretary provided further information later the same month.
- Suicide prevention "Everybody's Business" (December 2018)
The report made 31 recommendations, including: suicide prevention training and promotion of existing resources; evaluation and rollout of suicide prevention initiatives and

referral pathways; parity of mental and physical health; an all-Wales triage model locating community psychiatric nurses in police control rooms; follow up care after discharge; waiting times for psychological therapies; a postvention suicide strategy and pathway; engagement with people with personal experience of suicide ideation, survivors of suicide attempts and people bereaved by suicide; targeted actions for at risk groups, including men, farmers, students and prisoners; considerations for planning authorities; media reporting; online safety; governance; and funding. The report also supported recommendations made by the CYPE Committee in its Mind Over Matter inquiry. In its January 2019 [response](#), the Welsh Government accepted 21 recommendations in full, and accepted eight more in principle. Of the remaining two recommendations, some elements were accepted in full, and others in principle.

- [Mental health in policing and police custody](#) (October 2019)
The report made eleven recommendations, including: detentions under the Mental Health Act; partnership working between police and health services; early intervention, mental health crisis and out of hours care; data collection and publication; care and treatment planning; conveyance; and the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Assurance Group. In its December 2019 [response](#), the Welsh Government accepted seven recommendations in full, three in principle, and rejected one.
- [Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, and its management, on health and social care in Wales: impact on mental health and wellbeing](#) (December 2020)
The report made 15 recommendations, including: planning for the short and long term mental health impact on the population and the health and social care workforce; monitoring the impact on self-harm and suicide; disconnects between health boards' assurances and patients' experiences; the mental health core dataset; a bereavement care framework; and urgently evaluating remote digital mental health service provision. The report also reiterated recommendations made in Everybody's Business and the CYPE Committee's Mind Over Matter reports on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. In its February 2021 [response](#), the Welsh Government accepted twelve recommendations in full, and three in principle. The then Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language [wrote](#) to the Fifth Senedd HSCS Committee in March 2021 to provide a detailed update on progress against the recommendations made in the Everybody's Business report.

Children, Young People and Education Committee reports

In a [Plenary statement](#) in January 2017, the chair of the Fifth Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee, Lynne Neagle MS, stated that members of the Committee were "incredibly passionate about the quality and provision of mental health services for young people". The

Committee carried out work relating to the mental health of children and young people and their families throughout the Fifth Senedd, including as part of the following inquiries:

- Perinatal mental health in Wales (October 2017) and Perinatal mental health – Follow up
The report made 27 recommendations, including that the Welsh Government: establishes a clinician-led managed clinical network; ensures that robust data is collected and monitored to understand the ongoing level of need for perinatal mental health support; creates a Mother and Baby Unit in south Wales; and explores with NHS England options for the creation of a centre in north east Wales. In its response, the Welsh Government rejected four recommendations, accepted four “in principle”, and accepted 19. The Committee carried out follow-up work to monitor the Welsh Government’s implementation of those recommendations between November 2018 and March 2021.
- Mind over matter (October 2018) and Mind over matter: Two years on (October 2020)
The Committee’s influential Mind over matter report made 28 recommendations. Its “key recommendation” was that the Welsh Government make the emotional and mental well-being and resilience of children and young people a stated national priority. Other recommendations considered issues such as support for mental health in schools, primary mental health support services, CAMHS services, suicide prevention, inpatient care, advocacy services and expenditure on emotional and mental health services. In its response, the Welsh Government rejected four recommendations, and partially or wholly accepted the others. The Welsh Government’s progress against those recommendations two years on from the original report’s publication is addressed in the Committee’s follow-up report Mind over matter: Two years on.