



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1440
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/05735/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

petitions@senedd.wales

10 June 2024

Dear Jack,

Petition P-06-1440: Establish a Welsh under 18 gender service in Wales for Welsh children and young people asap

Thank you for your letter of 23 May about the above petition. The Welsh Government is committed to improving the gender identity development pathway and the support available for young people in Wales, in line with the commitments in our LGBTQ+ plan.

You will be aware the Cass Review has recently concluded and published its final report. It was set up to ensure children and young people who are questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria, and require support from the NHS, receive a high standard of care that meets their needs and is safe, holistic and effective.

We commission gender identity services for young people from NHS England. The NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee is represented on the Gender Dysphoria Services Transformation Programme Board in England, which has been establishing new services for children and young people, in line with the findings from the interim Cass report. Two new children and young people's gender services opened in April.

I have asked the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee to consider the Cass report and recommendations. It has published the following briefing report.

whssc.nhs.wales/commissioning/whssc-policies/gender/publication-of-the-cass-review-final-report-stakeholder-briefing-docx-pdf/

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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.

It is important that support for children and young people is led by the evidence. The Cass Review concluded that there is not enough evidence to assure the safety or clinical effectiveness of puberty suppressing hormones to make the treatment routinely available at this time. Therefore, puberty suppressing hormones will not be available via the NHS as a routinely commissioned treatment option for children and young people in Wales who are referred via the NHS Wales gender identity services pathway.

The service transformation programme being undertaken by NHS England and informed by the Cass review aligns with the model of care we espouse in Wales, while providing a robust and sustainable service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol