

Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a'r Blynyddoedd Cynnar
Minister for Mental Health & Early Years



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1454
Ein cyf/Our ref JB/05260/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee

10 July 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter dated 11 June regarding Petition P-06-1454, Calling Welsh Government to provide urgent mental health support for New Dads.

On the 11 June, our consultations to the draft mental health and wellbeing strategy and the suicide and self-harm prevention strategy concluded. Officials are currently analysing responses and will consider the evidence sources referenced within your letter as part of that analysis. It is envisaged that the consultation reports for both strategies will be published in October, with a view to publication of the final strategies and delivery plans at the end of the year.

The draft suicide and self-harm prevention strategy includes an objective to deliver rapid and impactful prevention, intervention, and support to those groups in society who are the most vulnerable to suicide and self-harm through the settings with which they are most engaged. Building on our work to deliver the vision in Talk to Me 2, this objective aims to ensure that we provide a more tailored and targeted approach to support those groups that are most vulnerable to suicide and self-harm. It also aims to ensure that we identify and provide appropriate, person-centred support within the settings where individuals who are vulnerable present. We will do this through being led by research and evidence to identify groups and settings and will develop programmes of work to support individuals and organisations.

The needs of new dads are also being considered as part of current work of the Strategic Mental Health Programme within the NHS Executive. When developing the All-Wales Perinatal Mental Health Pathways these have been developed for both women and their families.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Jayne.Bryant@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jayne.Bryant@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.

Through the programmes training offer we actively encourage colleagues to inquire about the mental health of all fathers during the assessment period and to provide necessary support or referrals to ensure that they receive appropriate treatment. All specialist perinatal mental health teams currently offer assessments and many also provide support to fathers, if required. They are also currently developing a Best Practice Guide following a recent Community of Practice event, "Fathers Matter Too" - <https://tinyurl.com/bdcsnke4>

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'J'.

Jayne Bryant AS/MS

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