

Russell George MS
Health and Social Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

By email

4th November 2024

Dear Russell,

We are writing to you as co-leads of the development and the implementation of the National Trauma-Informed Framework for Wales 'Trauma-Informed Wales: A Societal Approach to Understanding, Preventing and Supporting the Impacts of Trauma and Adversity.'

We first wrote to you on the 30th June 2023 following the publication of 'Connecting the Dots', thanking the committee for its important recognition of the contribution that the Trauma-informed Framework would make to tackling mental health inequalities in Wales in the report of its inquiry. We also updated the committee on action we have taken to progress recommendation 11 which was a specific ask of Welsh Government that 'By July 2023 the Welsh Government should publish the key deliverables and qualitative and quantitative measures for the impact of the trauma-informed framework for Wales, and put in place a robust evaluation framework. If the Welsh Government is not able to commit in its response to our report to the work being completed within this timeframe, it should explain why it is not achievable and provide information about the timescales within which the measures and evaluation framework will be completed'.

As we set out in our letter of the 30th June, we are aware that the Welsh Government accepted this recommendation, in principle, on the grounds that it could not accept it in full because it was not a Welsh Government framework and reiterating that the Framework was co-produced with a wide range of organisations, and individuals, with an interest in the promotion, and adoption, of trauma-informed approaches, including those with lived

experience of trauma. The overall goal of the Framework, and of all of those who have contributed to its development, and are now contributing to its implementation, is to make Wales a trauma-informed nation.

We committed to providing a further update to the committee on our progress in implementing the Framework, and in particular the monitoring and evaluation of it. We are pleased to report that we have regular meetings with Welsh government officials and with Ministers, including a meeting on the 5th November with Lynne Neagle MS, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dawn Bowden, MS, Minister for Children and Social Care, and Sara Murphy, MS, Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, to update them on our progress. We are pleased to see such a strong commitment to our work continuing across government.

By way of further update, you will recall that following the Launch of the Framework on July 14th 2022, we began to develop an implementation approach that retains the key principles of co-production and co-delivery. We have an Implementation Steering Group, with a broad representation of sectors and people with lived experience, that meets bi-monthly. That group has established working groups to take forward the agreed areas of particular focus. Further information on all of this can be found on the Trauma-informed Framework website: [Working Groups - Trauma-Informed Wales](#). The website also supports the public communication and engagement around the work.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Trauma-informed Framework is a specific working group, co led by Dr Joanne Hopkins and Annette Leponis from Traumatic Stress Wales. [Monitoring and Evaluation - Trauma-Informed Wales](#). This working group will build into the developing work around our roadmap to implementing the Trauma-informed Framework. We will continue to co-create an inclusive mechanism, that adheres to the values and ethos of the Framework itself, to ensure that we are able to evidence the positive change we are implementing and the difference it is making to people, organisations, systems and society across Wales. We commit to involving and including people who experience services as well as those delivering them, through reflective practice and underpinned by the 5 principles of the Framework. The evaluation framework uses a realist approach to evaluate whole-systems or community-based interventions, where circumstances may vary between different settings and implementation of the same intervention may lead to very different

outcomes. The working group is building on the evaluation framework developed for the Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences-informed Organisational Toolkit as a basis for the broader Trauma-informed Framework approach: The evaluation framework can be found here: [ACE-Hub-Wales-Evaluation-framework-Public-Version-1.pdf](#)

As part of this work, we have co-developed tools and resources that help us to understand what 'good looks like' which builds on how the Trauma-informed Framework document itself sets this out within each of the four practice levels, and shows the impact and outcomes for each at an individual, organisation and system wide level. We have co-created a narrative and short animations to make this information as accessible as possible.: [The Practice Levels - Trauma-Informed Wales](#) . We have developed a roadmap tool to support ongoing conversations with people and organisations across Wales as part of our commitment to an iterative theory of change that will identify the activities and outputs needed to achieve outcomes in the short, medium and longer term. The key for this work is that it is a reflective piece, that will take time to develop and evolve as we continue to learn and co-develop our approach with that ethos.

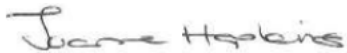
The recent publication 'A Heart Help' [A Heart of Help - Trauma-Informed Wales](#), commissioned by Traumatic Stress Wales and co-developed in collaboration with Plattform, the third sector mental health charity, the Welsh Refugee Council and Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service, demonstrates our commitment to capturing how the implementation of the Framework has made people feel. This complements the need to identify data that can already be used to support measures around delivery of training, for example, or outcomes such as reduced sickness absence in the workforce and increased uptake of services. Our shared ambition for the work is to become a social movement, with a shared public narrative around this work, developed by the communications and engagement working group.

We also want to ensure we give people the skills, and tools, to take the work forward. You may also be interested to note that as part of the training and skill into practice working groups we are further developing resources to support people and organisations; including the TrACE Toolkit, details of which can be found at: [TrACE - ACE Hub Wales](#); E-learning to provide a baseline of understanding for anyone looking to implement the Framework and

tools and resources, and an online interactive digital toolkit, TIPSS-4CYP (Trauma-Informed Practice, Skills and Strategies for those working with Children and Young People). This toolkit offers six-modules, the first three modules cover the trauma skilled practice level, the full six modules will cover the trauma enhanced practice level. Staff across sectors will be offered training and reflective practice to use TIPPS-4CYP and develop their ability to practice in a trauma-skilled and trauma-enhanced way. As of 01/10/24, 85 people have been trained using TIPSS training and module sets, all of which have completed evaluation. We would be happy to provide further details of this work in due course.

We continue to be very happy to provide an update on the evaluation framework and implementation work overall, if that would be helpful, at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Joanne Hopkins
Director of ACE Hub Wales



Professor Jon Bisson,
Director of Traumatic Stress Wales