

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref:

Buffy Williams MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education
Committee Senedd

senedd.children@senedd.wales

22 December 2025

Dear Buffy

Thank you for the committee's letter on 1 December requesting further clarification about perinatal mental health support.

In my previous letter, I referenced the review the Strategic Programme for Mental Health (SPMH) had undertaken of its internal governance and implementation structures to enable it to meet the requirements of the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy*. This has been concluded and, as a result it has been decided to replace the Perinatal Clinical Implementation Network with a Community of Practice.

In respect to clinical leadership, the programme's clinical lead posts now cover all areas of mental health, with a work programme aligned with the strategy.

As set out in my September letter these are:

- Clinical psychologist (adult and older adult mental health, perinatal, eating disorders)
- Registered mental health nurse (acute and crisis care)
- Consultant psychiatrist (child and adolescent mental health services)
- Clinical psychologist (psychological therapies).

In respect to your questions about the options considered and engagement undertaken, the SPMH would be best placed to respond to your queries. Ciara Rogers, the national director for mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity in NHS Performance and Improvement, would be happy to provide a briefing for the committee. If this is helpful, my office can help make the arrangements.

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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.

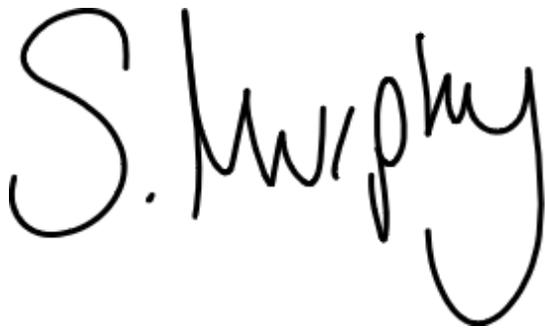
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In transitioning from the Perinatal Clinical Implementation Network to the Community of Practice, Hayley Thomas, who is the chief executive of Powys Teaching Health Board and the lead chief executive for mental health has written to all NHS Wales chief executives to make it clear that work is expected to be maintained as business as usual. This includes:

- The perinatal mental health pathways, which were developed by the clinical implementation network, must continue to guide practice.
- All health boards must support the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee to provide access to high-quality inpatient perinatal mental healthcare.
- Prioritise meeting the Royal College of Psychiatry's perinatal mental health standards and report on their delivery to NHS Wales Performance and Improvement on a quarterly basis. This will enable any gaps to be identified and addressed.

In relation to the new Seren unit in Chester, we expect a phased opening starting from this month. In relation to Uned Gobaith, I can confirm it is intended to remain at Tonna for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'S. Murphy'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Murphy AS/MS

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