

P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Chair, 19.12.13.

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition and giving me the opportunity to respond to the Health Minister, Mark Drakeford's comments on the 8th October.

I have a couple of points that I would like considered, and would feel happier if we could somehow keep the pressure on the Health Minister regarding the provision of equal, if not more funding for CAMHS Eating Disorder services in Wales, which as you probably remember, was the original plea.

I do think that asking Mr Drakeford for a review into how the promised £250,000 for South Wales has been used in a years' time will be interesting in its results. However, I still believe that he has made an error in his oversight of not providing funding for Mid and North Wales CAMHS eating disorder services.

A debate in the Senedd might be a way forward, but not knowing if this is even feasible, I am in your hands as to the pressure that is applied.

I am resending the questions that were pressing following the hearing on the 8th October, they are as follow:

Following the evidence session we (Dr Robin Glaze, Susannah Humphrey and myself) had a couple of questions that we wondered if the committee might consider:

1) We wondered if at some point Mark Drakeford could clarify how he is going to use the £250,000 for South Wales. In our calculations this may not even cover the annual costs of employing 3 or 4 team members, let alone the new state of the art unit he alluded to.

In our calculations: Psychiatrist pay: £90– £100,000

Psychologist pay:£50–£80,000

Dietician pay. : £35–£40,000

Rough estimate: £175,000. Which doesn't leave much for the other costs, for example he mentioned going into schools, plus clinics which have overhead costs.

2) The tier 4 unit is obviously further funding, he spoke of the repatriation of children that have cost Wales £1.9 million in funding across the border to England. These children will still cost almost the same amount if funded by Wales, which does not seem to equate to the £250,000.

3) Clearly he has not taken into account the vital role that Beat Cymru play in Wales, and had not realised that the funding finishes in March 2014. At the moment Beat Cymru are a satellite of the larger charity based in England who subsidise all the leaflets, translate them and keep the master copies. Would there be funding for them (this does not come under the original petition).

4) Please would Mark Drakeford redress the issue of Mid and North Wales? The services in both Mid and North Wales need extra funding and this should not be forgotten.

I would like to also highlight the findings below, that were released this week by the Auditor General and the Health Inspectorate of Wales after a review into CAMHS in Wales. Although this is a review of the general state of CAMHS and admissions in Wales, it is obvious that Eating Disorders would be high on the list of needing an overview and funding, especially as they remain the mental illnesses with the highest mortality rate.

The Auditor General for Wales, Huw Vaughan Thomas said today:

“Despite the steps taken to address the safety concerns raised in the 2009 report, children and young people continue to be put at risk. The Welsh Government therefore needs to take a stronger grip to ensure that health boards are designing and delivering services which protect children and young people and minimise the risks to them”

Chief Executive for Health Inspectorate Wales, Kate Chamberlain said today:

“The problems with delivering safe mental health services for children and young people identified in 2009 still remain, and there are considerable challenges for Health Boards to address in developing services and changing professional practices on the ground. Health Inspectorate Wales will continue to monitor progress being made across Wales in improving the effectiveness and safety of services delivered to children and young people”

The Framework for Eating Disorders was published in 2009, and would in likelihood have been reviewed as part of this audit. Whether reviewed or not, the findings highlight that children and adolescents with mental health illnesses, including Eating Disorders, are still being woefully and dangerously, let down.

Thank you once again for your continued support of this petition. I remain hopeful that the outcome will benefit the whole of Wales and that children and adolescents affected by Eating Disorders will be high on the priority list of Mr Drakeford.

Yours sincerely

Helen Missen

Dear Mr Powell

Further to my letter last night I would like to add the following points for consideration:

I wonder if we could ask the Minister to confirm that the money (the promised £250,000) will be directly spent on Eating Disorder care. How will he ensure that the money won't be used to prop up the inpatient service. Please would he respond to how he envisages the hub, spoke assessment and treatment service would work practically because poorly adolescents would need seeing at least 2-3 times a week in each area, clearly requiring a huge specialist service and thus unworkable.

Please could he clarify the measures he will put in place to ensure that specialist community ED services will also be available in North Powys and North Wales.

Finally if the minister could confirm how many ED cases were really treated out of area because I think the South Wales units prioritise ED cases so his numbers seem way too high.

Thank you and I apologise for the 'add on'.

Helen Missen