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Health Board

Our Ref: CS/KD

2 December 2015

Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Chair

### **'TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE' PROGRAMME**

Thank you for inviting me and my colleague Shane Mills to the Committee on 22 October 2015. I agreed to provide a note of the key areas where we anticipate progress to be made by April 2016 as part of the 'Together for Children and Young People' (T4CYP) multi-agency service improvement programme.

Key priorities for action developed in consultation with individuals from across health, social services, education and the third sector have been included in the scope for each of the theme based work streams reporting to the Programme Board. Initial plans have been developed to deliver tangible improvement within the next 12 months and work streams are committed to delivering the following products by the end current financial year:

- A multi-agency national staff training programme encompassing health, education and social care to consider children and young people's mental health and resilience.
- Models of support for vulnerable children (including those who are looked after or adopted) and for those young people at risk of developing mental illness

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- An integrated diagnostic/assessment support package for children with ADHD/ASD
- A common pathway for adoption across Wales.
- A national Quality and Delivery Framework for specialist CAMHS
- A 'transition pack' of resources for professionals that sets out a model for a good transition across all areas including Youth Justice and Complex Care.
- A core training curriculum that can be applied across all professions and agencies.
- A Public Health Needs Assessment and Evidence Review

The priorities for action and emerging deliverables for the financial year have also been submitted to the T4CYP Expert Reference Group for their advice and comment. A final work plan clearly outlining the tangible products and measurable outcomes for all work streams will be considered by the Programme Board on 19 January 2016.

A number of proposals submitted by health boards for the additional £7.65M CAMHS funding have been agreed by Welsh Government (WG) following external scrutiny and advice. The priority for the current financial year is to improve waiting times and access, ensuring that targets for children and young people (CYP) with mental illness are equitable with those required for adults:

- urgent assessments to be undertaken within 48 hours;
- routine assessments to be undertaken within 28 days.

The Baseline Variations and Opportunities Audit, has provided an emerging clear and consistent picture of specialist CAMHS activity. NHS Benchmarking are continuing to evaluate the data submissions from health boards and we anticipate that both the final national report and health board specific reports will be published in January 2016.

Evidence considered during the Donaldson Review reinforced the need for a broad education that results in healthy resilient children. This is strongly aligned to the work of the T4CYP programme and discussions have taken place to ensure the two programmes of work are joined up. Products from the T4CYP Resilience, Wellbeing and Early Years work stream will be tested with young people through the Donaldson 'pioneer schools' as the curriculum reform work progresses. During our meeting I stated that I would check the name of the primary school in Newport that provided an excellent example of promoting wellbeing, through nurture groups and its strong links with the local community. The school is Pillgwenlly Primary.

Finally, I would like to assure you that T4CYP is working closely with key partners to maintain a broad based engagement that captures the wellbeing of *all* children and not just those who use CAMHS services. This

approach has been endorsed by the Chair of the Expert Reference Group and the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Proposals emerging from the Programme will be continually tested as they are developed through the Commissioner's network of CYP and the Children in Wales, Young Wales' Forum. Key messages that emerge from current consultations will also be collated into a compendium of common themes and shared with work streams to ensure that work remains focussed on those issues of importance to CYP themselves. A 'You Said/ We Did' report will subsequently be developed to highlight the action being taken to respond to issues raised.

The first edition of a T4CYP Newsletter, outlining the scope of the programme and its priorities for action was widely circulated and received positive feedback. Subsequent editions will be regularly produced, to ensure that both CYP and partner organisations involved in the delivery of services, are kept up to date with current thinking and are able to influence developing proposals.

I hope that this provides the Committee with assurance that T4CYP is committed to working at pace to reshape and refocus the emotional and mental health services provided for CYP in Wales. If you have any queries or issues requiring clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carol Shillabeer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**Carol Shillabeer**  
**Chief Executive Powys Teaching Health Board**  
**Chair of T4CYP Programme**