

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-408
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00560/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

23 March 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 23 February on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding petition P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder services.

Our *Together for Mental Health Strategy Delivery Plan* committed us to ask for a review of the pattern and cost effectiveness of inpatient eating disorder treatment across all-age services. The final report was received in 2015 and proposed that the pathway of eating disorder services should be based on the 'recovery model' widely used elsewhere in mental health services. It acknowledged that community services were having a positive effect and that the balance of care should be shifted towards a range of early intervention and treatment services within communities and as close to home as possible. This should ensure that children are better supported to live at home with their families, both reducing need to go into more specialist provision and enabling people who do need such care to return home more quickly.

This model of care already exists within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Wales where admission to inpatient services is becoming increasingly rare. The review highlighted that investment in CAMHS in recent years, including £250,000 recurrently from 2013 onwards, is showing positive results. Due to the investments made in staff and training at that time, the vast majority of young people with an acute eating disorder can now be successfully managed through generic mental health services. It is now rare that a young person needs referral out of Wales to receive a highly specialist eating disorder service. However, there will always be a very small number of young people who require highly specialised care provided facilities which act as hubs for the whole UK.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@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.

The review concluded that in 2015 there was no strong case for a dedicated eating disorder unit in Wales for a number of reasons, including a lack of critical mass with the number of cases where an eating disorder is the primary diagnosis requiring admission appearing to be a decreasing trend.

Following this review, we also commissioned Public Health Wales to refresh the 2009 *Eating Disorders Framework for Wales* and have asked health boards to take account of the findings which were published in 2016. A more formal framework review will be undertaken following the publication of new NICE guidance *Eating Disorders – recognition and treatment*, which is due to be published in the spring of 2017.

The Welsh Government's 2017-18 budget also includes proposals to increase funding for eating disorder services in Wales by an additional £500,000. We are currently in the process of discussing with health boards how best to use this funding to benefit people with eating disorders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport