

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-05-754  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/01046/17

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

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

10 May 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March about the petition received from Rebecca Weale about support for children with disabilities at crisis.

The Welsh Government has invested almost £8 million additional annual funding to improve mental health services for children and young people and to ensure appropriate resources are available to help them achieve the right outcomes in a timely manner. The Together for Children and Young People Programme is an NHS led, Welsh Government funded initiative which is examining, with partners, the role of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and others in meeting the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people. One of the priorities for this programme is improving neurodevelopment services for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism. £2 million of the funding is being used to develop service improvements. The programme has also established CAMHS crisis care teams and £2.7 million of the £8 million funding is being used specifically for this. These teams work in the evenings and at weekends, to ensure young people presenting with mental health conditions, in crisis e.g., at accident and emergency units or to the police, are able to have appropriate support.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

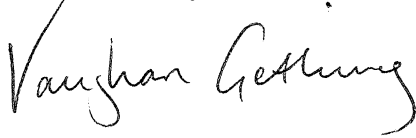
[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

Last November we published our Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan. This set out a number of key actions, some of which will be delivered through a new national Integrated Autism Service (IAS). The IAS is designed to provide extra support for children, adults and families, to help them avoid crisis and the need for more intensive support. There will be new specialist team in every region providing support for families and carers. The first phase of implementation of the IAS is now underway and being rolled out across Cardiff and the Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent and Powys. Recruitment to these four regional teams should be completed this month with services coming on stream in July. The IAS will be rolled out across Wales by 2018. As we develop the service we will be seeking the views of people with autism and parents and carers to ensure the services are developed to provide them with the support they need.

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