

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA(P)VG/3145/17

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

2 October 2017

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 8 September regarding your inquiry into the emotional and mental health of children and young people. In relation to the questions you raise I have the following observations.

As you know the NHS is leading the Together for Children and Young People Programme with the close involvement of Welsh Government officials, but we do not manage the programme. I understand the Programme Board has recently agreed that the Programme should run until the end of 2018-19. Towards the end of this period I would expect the Programme Board to consider what, if any, legacy arrangements are required to ensure improvements are fully embedded and sustainable across organisations work.

In relation to your second question about responsibility for CAMHS, as you know NHS services fall within my portfolio of responsibilities. However, the Minister for Social Services and Public Health also has an interest given her remit for autism. More generally any professional or agency which comes into contact with children has a role in contributing to their emotional and mental well-being. This is why the Welsh Government is fully committed to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this respect, the Cabinet Secretary for Education has responsibility for promoting emotional health and well-being in school settings, through curriculum reform, school counselling and pastoral care, educational psychology and additional learning needs. You will be aware the Cabinet Secretary for Education and I have recently announced a joint initiative to pilot how we can strengthen mental health and well-being in schools backed with £1.4m new funding.

Additionally, the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language has responsibility for Youth Work Policy and youth services, which encourage young people to reach their full potential. Whilst the Cabinet Secretary for Children and Communities has responsibility for ensuring children, their needs and their rights are placed at the heart of policy development and service delivery, and has a specific role in relation to the needs of children in specific circumstances such as looked after children and gypsies, travellers and asylum-seekers.

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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 terms of managing these responsibilities across portfolios, I have regular discussions with my Cabinet and ministerial colleagues, both formally and informally on issues which cut across our remits. Our officials also maintain a regular dialogue and a number of fora exist to share knowledge and inform policy development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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