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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/KW/2411/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

27 July 2018

Dear Lynne,

Following the debate on our response to the *Mind Over Matter* report we wanted to update the Committee on the discussions we have been having within government. They have centred on how we can accelerate our work to achieve a whole school approach to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Wales.

Developing resilient children and young people and increasing the pace of work to improve mental health support in schools, are key areas the Government is committed to deliver on under the mental health theme in *Prosperity for All*. The Committee's inquiry and subsequent report have been very helpful in informing these discussions and highlighting the need for us to put in place arrangements to move the next stages of the agenda forward quickly; this broader approach we are planning will draw together many of the Committee's recommendations.

We will therefore be establishing a new Ministerial Task and Finish Group – jointly chaired by us to formalise arrangements to drive and oversee progress and to enable timely decisions to be made to maintain the pace of delivery. To provide a clear line of sight to the Children, Young People and Education Committee as the Chair, we would like to invite you to be a member of our Ministerial Task and Finish Group.

A stakeholder reference group will also be convened to ensure that the broad range of agencies with a role in delivering a whole school approach can have a meaningful engagement with this programme of work. Details of the full membership of the group will be shared with the Committee once finalised.

To support the work of these groups, we have agreed to establish a new and bespoke team of officials to work across health, social care and education portfolios to drive this agenda and to deliver a coherent and sustainable approach to mental wellbeing. This team will draw in expertise from key agencies and ensure the necessary links are made with other relevant

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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.

programmes of work – such as the NHS-led Together for Children and Young People Programme.

A key element of this work will be to review any early learning from the school in-reach pilots. We have asked officials to contact you with the offer of visiting the existing projects and approaches to see first hand the work that is already underway in Wales.

We hope this reassures you of the actions we are taking to enable us to achieve our shared vision for a whole school approach, as part of the wider whole system approach, to improve the resilience, and the emotional and mental health of our children and young people. We will provide an update on progress to the Committee in the autumn and periodically thereafter.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a
Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social
Services



Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
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