



Vaughan Gething
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Social Care and Sport
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Kirsty Williams
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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By email only

13 September 2018

Dear Cabinet Secretaries,

Re: Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on a Whole-School Approach to Mental Health

I write to you both in acknowledgement of your recent announcement to establish a Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on a Whole-School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing, and to recognise this development as part of improving our collective response in meeting the mental health needs of children and young people across Wales.

Nationally, over time, we as Mind are expanding our work to support anyone facing a mental health problem from childhood through to adulthood. We're working with children and young people throughout England and Wales to make sure we listen and understand the unique problems they are facing.

Given your recent announcement, I wanted to let you know that we're building on our local expertise and expanding our work in schools. We're piloting a new way of supporting the mental health of everyone involved in school life: pupils, the entire school workforce and parents. This will be our 'whole school approach to mental health', informed by in-depth research and input from young people, teachers and parents.

We're currently working with our local Minds to test, evaluate and refine our whole school approach to mental health across a diverse range of secondary schools, ensuring that it gives people choice and meets their needs.

Our approach has the potential to help thousands of young people get the help they need, at a time and place that's right for them. It's with all of this in mind that I write to you to offer a meeting to share further details of our approach and a visit to our local Mind in Wales who will be piloting this approach for us. I also write to formally request membership of either your Task and Finish Group or your soon-to-be-established Stakeholder Reference Group, as appropriate.

We currently hold membership of and contribute to the Resilience and Early Intervention Work stream, as part of the Together for Children and Young People Programme. This remains a valuable method of engagement for us and we look forward to continuing to input into its future work plan. However, given the proposed focus of the forthcoming Stakeholder Reference Group in establishing a whole school approach to mental health, our membership would ensure that we keep you updated with our pilot developments, learning and future expansion work, and therefore avoid duplication of effort.

In addition to this, and as a major information service provider, with millions of people receiving advice and support from our helplines and specialist information across England and Wales, we will be developing information resources aimed at young people and would welcome your input here.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with yourselves and/or the new and bespoke team of officials established to drive this agenda forward to update you further and distinguish the appropriate links. Please do contact Nia Evans by emailing n.evans@mind.org.uk to arrange this.

Yours sincerely,



Sara Moseley
Director, Mind Cymru

c.c. Lynne Neagle, Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee

Prof. Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales

Carol Shillabeer, Chair, Together for Children and Young People Programme

Nichola Jones, Chair, Resilience and Early Intervention Workstream