

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/02983/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
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30 September 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-842 – Give young people a voice when commissioning local services in Wales.

The Welsh Government welcomed the publication of the Children, Young People and Education Committee's report, *Mind Over Matter*, following its inquiry into the provision of emotional and mental health services to children and young people. We are pleased that the Committee has acknowledged the improvements in the provision of specialist mental health services in recent Years and we are working with the Committee and stakeholders to take forward the recommendations in *Mind Over Matter*. To this end on 7 September the Cabinet Secretary for Education and I announced we would convene a joint ministerial task and finish group to consider the whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing in schools, and take forward the education related recommendations in *Mind Over Matter*.

We also continue to support the Together for Children and Young People (T4YP) Programme, which launched in February 2015 and will be running until 2019. The NHS led T4CYP programme is about ensuring the current system for addressing mental and emotional health works more effectively across all sectors, not just specialist NHS services.

Engaging children and young people in the development and implementation of activity is central to the programme. Children and young people are being given the opportunity to develop and shape the future delivery of emotional and mental health services through broad roots engagement that captures the well being of all children and not just those who use Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). This includes working closely with Children in Wales, the Children's Commissioner's office, Time to Change Wales and the third sector 'High Needs Collaborative'.

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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.


Proposals emerging from the Programme will be continually tested as they are developed through the Commissioner's network of children and young people and the Children in Wales, Young Wales' Forum. The latter provides an opportunity for children and young people to directly engage on issues that are important to them.

In addition, T4CYP Newsletters are regularly produced and circulated to a wide range of stakeholders. This ensures that both children and young people and partner organisations involved in the delivery of services are kept up to date with current thinking and are able to influence developing proposals. The Programme also recognises the importance of providing feedback to those children and young people who contribute their views. In order to provide assurance that their views and opinions are leading to tangible action and service improvements the Programme has developed a report that highlights the action being taken to respond to issues raised.

Earlier this year, I met with ABMYouth, a group of young people that work closely with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to ensure that their views and needs are fully taken into account when commissioning health services. This is a very progressive step and I encourage other health boards to consider whether similar mechanisms should be put in place in their respective areas.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter. I hope you have found my reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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