
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

National Assembly for Wales
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Dr Siân Lewis
Managing Director of Specialised and Tertiary Commissioning,
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC)

24 January 2019

Dear Dr Lewis,

Child and Adolescent Mental Health: in-patient provision

It has come to the Committee's attention that, in light of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales's concerns about the safety of in-patient mental health care settings in Wales, significant restrictions are currently in place in relation to the provision of in-patient care for children and young people within Wales. We are writing to WHSSC given your responsibility, on behalf of the Health Boards, for commissioning specialist Tier 4 CAMHS.

To enable the Committee to scrutinise the arrangements in place, and establish whether further scrutiny is required, Members would be grateful to receive responses to each of the questions below.

- Please could you confirm the current options available for patients living in Wales who require in-patient CAMHS care.
- Please could you outline the impact on current practice of the restrictions applied to in-patient mental health care settings in Wales (for example: are children and young people now being admitted to adult wards where hospitalisation is unavoidable and/or for longer whilst placements are being commissioned from England or elsewhere? Are there sufficient designated wards available? Are Health Boards instead utilising their home treatment team)
- Please describe the arrangements you have in place for monitoring and reviewing arrangements where you commission in-patient CAMHS care. Please provide information in relation to services commissioned in both Wales and England (and beyond, if relevant).



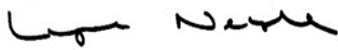
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- Please provide information about the numbers of in-patient CAMHS places you have commissioned in Wales and outside, per month, for the last 12 months (up to and including January 2019).

Given the potential seriousness of the concerns raised, the vulnerability of those patients most likely to require in-patient CAMHS care, and the likely increase this situation will cause in the placement of children and young people further from their homes, the Committee would be grateful to receive a response to this letter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair

