

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref/Ein cyf: MA-P/VG/0213/19

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

7 February 2019

Dear Lynne,

I am writing following my attendance at the Children, Young People and Education Committees scrutiny session on Perinatal Mental Health.

During the session I agreed to provide additional information in response to issues raised at the meeting which is included below.

**The perinatal mental health data and information currently collected by Local Health Boards and the Welsh Government.**

I explained in Committee that the formal mechanisms for collecting performance management and outcome data from the new community perinatal mental health service are still being agreed and established. As with any new health service, building a comprehensive and robust data collection system is a complex process and takes time.

Whilst the formal data collection systems are being established, as part of our monitoring of the community services in health boards, we have been requesting information on the number of staff in posts, number of referrals and interventions offered every six months. We will be writing to health boards this month to request the latest update which will include the following information:

- Numbers of referrals received / accepted.
- Which interventions were provided.
- Numbers of women treated for perinatal ill health;
  - By the Community Mental Health Team
  - In an adult psychiatric ward
  - In a mother and baby unit.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

## **The number of women who have been placed due to perinatal mental ill health on an adult psychiatric ward without their child.**

This information is not routinely reported to Welsh Government but we do expect health boards to record this information. As part of our interim arrangements to monitor community services as outlined above, and ahead of the implementation of the formal data collection, we are requesting this information for the last six months. However, it should be recognised that there are instances where women are placed on psychiatric units without their babies as this is the most appropriate placement for the individual – for example, when the mother is too unwell to care for her baby. We will include this information in the next six month update to the committee.

## **The timescales within which all Local Health Boards will be expected to have signed up to the Royal College of Psychiatrists' quality standards.**

The Quality Network for Perinatal Mental Health Services (a Royal College of Psychiatrists initiative) was established in 2007 and produced a set of service standards by which members are reviewed through a process of self and peer-review. The Network itself describes the full set of standards as aspirational and states that it is unlikely that any service would meet them all. In order to achieve accreditation, a service must meet 100% type 1 standards, at least 80% type 2 standards and 60% type 3 standards.

All health boards, through the All Wales Perinatal Mental Health Steering Group (AWPMHSG), have given a commitment to work towards the standards. The Clinical Network, once established, will work with health boards to share the benefits of adopting the standards, encouraging and supporting them to do so. Welsh Government are supportive of the need to work towards the standards, however we are aware that they are aspirational (and tailored to the English system) which are some of the reasons why the 1000i lives in conjunction with the AWPMHSG developed all Wales standards to support service improvement.. Our priority is for all community teams to meet the all Wales standards by March 2020 and to meet the relevant Royal College of Psychiatrists' quality standards by the end of the following financial year.

## **Further information on the directory of third sector services and how it is updated**

The 2014 Social Services and Well-being Act placed a duty on local authorities across Wales to make information about local services available to the public. Dewis Cymru, developed by Data Cymru on behalf of the 22 local authorities in Wales, in conjunction with a wide range of national and local stakeholders, supports this by providing a single, clear and reliable directory that can be used by members of the public, as well as care service professionals across Wales, to help support people achieve their well-being goals.

DEWIS is delivered by Data Cymru, a Welsh local government company with a Board of Directors elected by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). Local organisations and service providers can add information about their services and are prompted to update the information every six months. Each local organisation is responsible for updating their own information on to DEWIS and the onus is on the organisation to keep details up to date. <https://www.dewis.wales/>

## **Establishing a mother and baby unit in Wales.**

Your letter also expressed concerns on the progress of establishing a mother and baby unit in Wales and we are continuing to work with WHSCC to progress the work. It should be recognised that the implementation of such a specialised service is complex and requires

consideration of a number of factors including location, workforce and premises. Our aim is to develop a fit for purpose and sustainable solution.

You also asked for further detail on expected milestones for a number of areas and we will include these in my next six monthly update to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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