

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/VG/0522/19

Darren Millar AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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13 February 2019

Dear Darren,

In plenary on 29 January you requested an update on perinatal mental health in Wales. Specifically, you noted concerns regarding staffing levels in Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and the effect this was having on service delivery.

The health board has confirmed that whilst they did carry a vacancy in the North Wales Perinatal Mental Health Team, service provision was maintained whilst the recruitment process progressed. The health board also confirmed that team has recently recruited two whole time equivalent practitioners and recruitment is almost complete for a Psychologist, Psychiatrist and Nursery nurse to join the team.

More broadly, we made expanding perinatal mental health community services a priority area in the £7m mental health transformation fund which commenced in 2018-19. Health boards are using this funding to invest an additional £0.5m of recurring funding to support perinatal mental health services – this is in addition to the £1.5m made available in 2015/16 to first develop these teams. Further investment has also been made within the budget for 2019-20 which will assist health boards to further embed services within their areas.

We have also recruited an all Wales Perinatal Mental Health Clinical Lead, who started in post at the beginning of January. The lead will now be establishing a Clinical Network which will build on the work of the 'All Wales Perinatal Mental Health Steering Group' (AWPMHSG) and the Community of Practice which has brought together experts across Wales to set standards, develop pathways and support the provision of education.

As part of our recent update to the Children, Young People and Education Committee following their inquiry into Perinatal Mental Health Services we have also committed to provide further updates in implementing the recommendations that we have accepted in our response.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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Minister for Health and Social Services