



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/5725/19

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

9 December 2019

Dear Lynne,

Extended Together for Children and Young People NHS Programme

In my letter of 22 October 2019 to the Committee I outlined the draft proposals for an extension of the Together for Children and Young People Programme (T4CYP) and confirmed an 'in principle' agreement to this extension. I am writing now to provide the Committee with more detail about the extended programme and the final decision I have now taken.

I have agreed the T4CYP extension until March 2021. However, I have also provided provision to continue through to March 2022, subject to agreement by a new government. This letter provides the Committee with an outline of where I expect the programme to focus its effort until 2021/22.

The contributions from the T4CYP Expert Reference Group and the wider Programme Board have been very valuable in providing the evidence and direction for where the NHS and the cross-Government partnerships need to continue the focus to drive an improved service provision/support for the emotional and mental health of children and young people.

The outline work programme I have agreed will include:

- The delivery of a framework which describes the **early help and enhanced support** to be available across all areas of Wales. The framework will build resilience and support mechanisms as part of a whole system approach for children, young people and their families. It will also seek to describe the linkages to initiatives and services being put in place through the work with schools and more specialist mental health services in both primary and secondary care. This will involve close working between T4CYP and the NHS CAMHS Network, alongside the Whole School Approach Team and Social Services Improving Outcomes Team based in Welsh Government.

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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.

- Working with wider partners through Regional Partnership Boards to develop the **early help and enhanced support framework and then supporting its adoption at an RPB level**. This work will align with the direction of travel already signalled by Welsh Government on the future strategic role RPBs should play in this important multi-agency agenda. This T4CYP workstream will include the identification of models and approaches that can be implemented across Wales by facilitating the sharing of good practice and learning from projects supported by the Transformation Fund.
- Supporting the development of a **whole system approach for children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions**. This work stream will develop a future vision and policy for neurodevelopmental support services in Wales, key to steering the work to ensure the needs of all children (whether within or below the current threshold for specialist services) can be met. This will be undertaken by closely working with Welsh Government officials and linking with the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Act 2018.

The extended programme will also continue to work closely with HEIW and SCW, where necessary, in considering the workforce implications of the three work strands.

The T4CYP programme will require a formal Programme Board and the two new workstream areas focussing on early help and enhanced support, will report progress into both the Ministerial Task and Finish Group for Whole School Approach and the Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group. This arrangement will continue to strengthen the links with Welsh Government policy whilst providing transparency and visibility to the progress of improvement for stakeholders.

The third work stream area focussing on Neurodevelopmental provision will report into the Ministerial Task and Finish Group for Whole School Approach. This will provide cross sector oversight by a Ministerial level group which includes health, education, local authority and wider stakeholders.

To maintain strong, system wide engagement and support the required strategic oversight, the Chair of the T4CYP will continue to be a member of the Ministerial Task and Finish Group for the Whole School Approach. Similarly, the NHS Wales National Programme Director for Mental Health has been included as a new member of the Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group. I will keep proposed governance arrangements under review as the work of the programme progresses, particularly following the creation of the NHS Executive function in order to ensure arrangements remain fit for purpose and are the most appropriate vehicle for oversight.

I trust this information provides the Committee with the assurance that the valuable work to date already undertaken by the T4CYP programme will continue, and will in turn make a difference to young people across Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services