

CYPE(5)-01-20 - Paper to note 11

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-VG-5938-19

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

19 December 2019

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November. I note the additional scrutiny you will be undertaking in this important area, and look forward to providing further updates.

As you are aware, the major milestones in this area are that perinatal mental health community services should meet the All Wales Perinatal Mental Health Standards by March 2020 and should meet the relevant Royal College of Psychiatrists' quality standards by March 2021. Each of these milestones have a number of standards which health boards are working towards.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the key milestone of the development of a Mother and Baby Unit in Wales. At the time of my previous update I set out my concern that the timetable for a six bedded Mother and Baby Unit to be hosted by Swansea Bay University Health Board had slipped and that I had asked officials to explore options to accelerate planning or for an interim solution. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to accelerate timescales for the permanent six bedded unit, so officials are now prioritising an interim solution to ensure that there is a level of provision within Wales as soon as possible. Please be assured that I will provide an update on the timings for an interim solution as soon as I am in a position to do so. I can confirm that Welsh Government remains committed to establishing a permanent Mother and Baby Unit in Wales at the earliest opportunity.

I can also confirm that I will be providing my next 6 monthly update in April 2020. At this time I will be able to provide information on the next round of perinatal mental health data received from health boards, alongside updates on progress against our key milestones and the work streams being managed by the Perinatal Mental Health Network.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
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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.