

John Griffiths AM
Committee Chair
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: AJ/HE/1955

13 Ionawr/ January 2020

Dear John,

I am writing to thank you for the work of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee in researching and writing the report "Rough sleeping follow up- Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services." It is enlightening to see such a forward thinking report which identifies the benefits that Enhanced Harm Reduction Centres have on rough sleepers and those who live chaotic lifestyles.

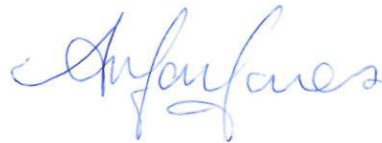
The level of drug related deaths have increased in recent years and as demonstrated within the report two out of five deaths of rough sleepers were drug related in 2018. An Enhanced Harm Reduction Centre would give rough sleepers a safe and clean environment to take substances but also to have access to health services, drug testing services and housing services. Despite the current legislation around Enhanced Harm Reduction Centres their success in countries around to reduce drug related deaths far outweigh the legal concerns.

On the 5th December 2019 I presented at the All Wales Policing Partnership Board alongside the Deputy Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughn focussing on harm reduction and drug related deaths. During our presentation I spoke about the benefits of Heroin Assisted Treatment, Enhanced Harm Reduction Centres and police officers carrying Naloxone. The Deputy Minister Jane Hutt AM and her colleagues all responded positively to the presentation and have shared their support for Heroin Assisted Treatment in Wales.

I would welcome future engagement with your committee the board to progress the agenda of reducing drug related deaths and homelessness in Wales and I support all of the recommendations especially the first and third recommendations. I have been a supporter of Enhanced Harm Reduction Centres for many years and I am happy to assist in producing an evidence based approach to piloting a centre Wales.

I would be interested in receiving a copy of the Welsh Government response to your report.

Yours Sincerely



Arfon Jones
North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Copy to:

Committee Clerk: Naomi Stocks

All Members of the Committee