



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/08817/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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17 January 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December asking for an update on the actions being taken in relation to Petition P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service and P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales.

As you are aware, I commissioned Dr Jacinta Tan of Swansea University to review eating disorder services in Wales and to determine what changes need to be made to improve services and outcomes for patients. I published a written statement relating to the review on 26 September and wrote to health boards setting out the actions I expect to be taken in response to the review. The actions include:

- Considering how key incremental changes could be made to ensure that longer term planning aligns with the ambition of the review;
- Reconfiguring services towards earlier intervention;
- Working towards achieving NICE standards for eating disorders within two years; and
- Developing plans to achieve a four week waiting time across adult and child services within two years

I have now received responses from all health boards setting out their views on the review and the actions they propose for meeting the ambitious recommendations contained within it. My officials are considering these responses to determine the next steps to be taken at a national level.

P-04-408 called for Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Services to receive the same level of funding as Adult Eating Disorder Services. It is difficult to make a like-for-like comparison of spending as child and adolescent eating disorder services are largely provided through wider CAMHS structures. Equalising funding was not a recommendation of the review into eating disorder services in Wales, though the review did highlight the need for additional funding for child and transitional services. The review did recommend a more integrated Child and Adult Service, a recommendation which has been taken into consideration by health boards.

P-04-505 called for the provision of a specialist eating disorder unit in Wales. Whilst Dr Tan's review into eating disorder services spoke about a hub and spoke model, and recommended that there be a National Eating Disorder Service, this was one of many recommendations requiring detailed consideration. This ongoing analysis includes impact assessments and prioritisation exercises. As part of this process, I wrote to health boards in September asking them to consider and provide feedback on the recommendations within the review, including the recommendation for a National Eating Disorder Service. I have received a range of responses to this which are now being considered by my officials.

In my written statement I also confirmed I would provide funding for a central resource to assist health boards in developing their plans. This national resource will have a role in identifying where regional provision can best respond to patient needs and where there is a need for a national role.

I hope this reassures you that actions are being taken in response to the review.

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

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