

CYPE(5)-07-20 - Paper to note 5

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

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-VG-6054-19

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair, Children, Young People and Education
Committee National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

18 February 2020

Dear Lynne,

Following on from my letter of 19 December, I would like to provide you with an update on the development of mother and baby inpatient provision within Wales. In that letter I confirmed that officials were prioritising an interim solution to ensure that there is a level of provision within Wales as soon as possible.

This work identified the potential to refurbish unused infrastructure within Swansea Bay University Health Board to develop a bespoke Mother and Baby Unit on the Tonna site. The Tonna sites has been reviewed by the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit against the standards for inpatient Perinatal Mental Health Services (CCQI March 2018) and would be clinically appropriate on either an interim or permanent basis.

I have asked Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) to proceed with a six bedded Mother and Baby Unit on the Tonna site. This unit is expected to be operational by spring 2021, representing a significant acceleration on timescales for other options. I have approved the capital funding for this work and have also committed additional funding to develop workforce capacity and capability ahead of the unit becoming operational.

In addition to this, I have asked WHSSC to undertake a further options appraisal to determine the appropriate model for a permanent Perinatal Mental Health Mother and Baby Unit. This work will consider whether continuing to use the refurbished unit at the Tonna Hospital site on a permanent basis, or developing a new build Mother and Baby Unit on the Neath Port Talbot site, will deliver the best outcomes for patients.

This represents an important step in ensuring that mothers in Wales receive the highest level of care and demonstrates Welsh Government's commitment to improving perinatal mental health provision within Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Minister for Health and Social Services
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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.