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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To: Nick Ramsay AM,
Chair, Public Accounts Committee

28 February 2020

Dear, Mr Ramsay

Thank you for your letter of 31 January further to the 13 January Public Accounts Committee session on Care Experienced Children and Young People. I am replying on behalf of our Accounting Officer, Andrew Goodall, Director General of Health and Social Services.

We are pleased that the Committee welcomes improvements across the public sector to meet the needs of care experienced children. We will be happy to update the Committee further about our work to extend Corporate Parenting responsibilities as this progresses. I will address each of the points raised in your letter in turn:

Out of County and Out of Wales Placements

The progress reporting arrangements started on 1 April 2019, with the first progress reports submitted six months later on 30 September 2019. For reporting purposes, a template has been developed and agreed with All Wales Heads of Children's Services.

At the 13 January meeting, some data relating to the first six months progress reports remained outstanding. We are now able to report the complete all-Wales April and September 2019 figures which are below:

Out of County			Out of Wales		
1.4.19	30.9.19	+/-	1.4.19	30.9.19	+/-
1663	1698	+35	309	271	+8

On an all Wales basis, these translate in to a 2% rise in out of county placements and a 2.6% rise in out of Wales placements in the first 6 months of the year. These are unofficial figures submitted directly from LAs and have not yet undergone the formal validation process in the same way as data submitted for our official published statistics. These figures are early indications and should be taken with caution as likely to be subject to much variation throughout the year.

Reporting arrangements on progress to Welsh Government now continue on a quarterly and annual basis. Local authority returns are discussed at a Welsh Government-convened Peer Learning and Feedback group made up of officials, local authorities, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Cafcass Cymru. From April this year and to complement the Welsh Government's work, the



Heads of Children's Services will be introducing their own Peer Learning Framework, which we will support as required.

Regarding children placed outside of Wales, we know from local authorities that the majority of these will be in kinship arrangements, where children are placed with family or friends, or in specialist placements. All of these arrangements are assessed by local authorities to be the most suitable for and in the best interests of the children and young people concerned.

Disclosures

In November 2017, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) wrote to all Directors of Social Services asking to be informed of children placed in unregistered settings. This was re-iterated in a further letter issued in September 2019. On behalf of Welsh Ministers, CIW has powers to require this information to be provided. While CIW is now being notified of such placements, CIW cannot be confident this is happening on every occasion and we continue to discuss this issue in regular meeting with local authorities. CIW does not require local authorities to disclose exceptional placement costs. Further, CIW is not aware of there being a 'specified threshold'.

Data on Educational Attainment

The attainment of education for children receiving care and support remains a priority, and we intend to publish the information in March.

However, we need to make sure that the information we publish has been validated and is of a high standard, and this means that on occasions, we will need to wait until due process has been followed. In this instance I can confirm that we are waiting for several datasets to be linked and for the information to be validated and quality assured. Officials are considering options for improving the process and timelines for the publication of this data for future years.

Evaluation of the Looked After Children (LAC) Pupil Development Grant (PDG)

Each Consortia is required to set regional targets for improving outcomes for looked after children in their area within their Annual Support Plan which is submitted to Welsh Government officials for approval.

Each Consortia has plans in place for the delegation of, monitoring and tracking of PDG LAC against regional targets. For example:

- In South East Wales, each cluster completes a grant planning form which is approved by a panel consisting of regional consortia and local authority officers. A mid-year progress on expenditure of grant spending is completed with any unallocated grant resource reallocated by the cluster. At the end of the financial year an evaluation report that focuses on the impact of the grant on the progress and provision for LAC learners is submitted from each cluster and is shared



with LA partners. This evaluation informs future grant plans and the regional professional learning offer.

- Tracking the progress of LAC learners is also completed by each school or setting and is submitted to local authority looked after children in education coordinators (LACE) on a bi-annual basis. This is analysed on a regional consortia basis and a report is generated and shared with local authorities. Progress in learning, attendance, exclusions and end of year levels are captured and are factored in to analysis.
- In GWE, the bilingual School Effectiveness and Improvement Service for North Wales, they have an evaluation process in place for PDG to ensure clusters are reporting on the impact of the PDG and tracking of LAC learners. This includes sharing current data on key indicators such as attendance, exclusions, Additional Learning Needs and English as an Additional Languages.
- Annually, all Core leads and Supporting Improvement Advisors receive information and data of schools/clusters that have looked after children across the region to support schools to set challenging targets and target support which is monitored quarterly in line with the region's business plan.
- They meet with all of the six LACE coordinators and the Strategic Managers via the Regional Quality Assurance group on a termly basis. They receive information from LACEs on the additional factors that have an impact on attainment and the Boxall assessment and profile has also been implemented across most schools in the region for looked after children where additional information is used to monitor distance travelled.

As a further evidence source, the independent evaluation of the implementation of the Pupil Development Grant for looked after children, undertaken by ICF Consulting, was published in January 2019.

The evaluation, which focused on 2015-16 and 2016-17, found positively that Consortia had set strategic objectives and implemented a revised allocation process for both strategic and sustainable activities, such as building capacity of teachers through training, and for supporting groups of LAC in local authorities and school clusters, responsive to their individual needs.

CAMHS

The CAMHS data requested regarding waiting times in relation to all children, is provided at Annex A.

The CAMHS data covers the period from April 2018 onwards. During 2019 it was identified that the data being provided for CAMHS for some health boards only captured referrals from GPs (so excluded referrals from others such as schools and single point of access services). We have worked with health boards to obtain data in

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the last few months covering all patients waiting for CAMHS regardless of referral source back to April 2018. The data prior to that which was published will not be an accurate reflection of CAMHS patients waiting and has not been included.

Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG)

We will, of course, share the next Annual Report of the Improving Outcomes for Children programme with you. The first Annual Report was published in November 2019 and the second Report will be published in early 2021.

CASCADE at Cardiff University undertook a formal evaluation of the Reflect project in Gwent, assessing its impact on avoided repeat pregnancies, improved well-being of birth mothers and financial savings. The findings from the evaluation, published in 2018, were positive. It highlighted that Reflect is meeting a key gap in support provision for a highly vulnerable group and positive impacts despite the high level, varied and multi-faceted needs of parents. Each region uses a results based accountability approach to measure its service delivery. The programme team is looking bring each region's data together to provide a national picture.

Thank you for attaching the article about the Buurtzorg model and children's social services in England which I note with interest and will discuss further with colleagues and stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Albert Heaney
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Director of Social Services and Integration

Public Account Committee

Care Experienced Children and Young People

28 February 2020

Request: Committee to have a breakdown of the figures for each month from the last 12 months including averages in relation to waiting times and the maximum and minimum waiting times for the last 5 years. We would welcome this data being provided on a Local Health Board basis too.

Actions:

1. Breakdown of the figures over the last 12 months, by HB
 - a. Table 1A: Performance over the last 12 months
 - b. Table 1B: Weighted average waiting time [weeks], by HB
2. Min and Max for each HB over the last 5 years
 - a. Table 2A: MI data have data from April 2018

Note:

- **Betsi Cadwaladr** were not able to submit data and thus the Wales totals exclude services provided by Betsi Cadwaladr. BUCHB operates with an integrated service model means and it is not currently possible to capture the waiting time from when the referral started to when treatment with the specialist CAMHS teams began.
- **Bridgend local authority moving health board:** On April 1st 2019 Health service provision for residents of Bridgend local authority has moved from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg to Cwm Taf with Cwm Taf University Health Board becoming Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board becoming Swansea Bay University Health Board.

As a technical document, the table is provided in English only.

Table 1A: Breakdown of the figures over the last 12 months (by HB residence)

Legend >= 80% 70% < x > 80% < 70%

Wales*	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19
Weeks Waiting: Up to 4 weeks	294	258	282	227	261	278	328	321	277	346	469	454
Weeks Waiting: Total waiting	389	376	409	254	392	371	468	460	546	544	625	592
Percentage waiting less than 28 days	75.6%	68.6%	68.9%	89.4%	66.6%	74.9%	70.1%	69.8%	50.7%	63.6%	75.0%	76.7%
ABUHB												
Weeks Waiting: Up to 4 weeks	133	119	102	130	50	46	52	60	53	62	79	66
Weeks Waiting: Total waiting	138	129	117	138	59	46	52	61	55	64	80	66
Percentage waiting less than 28 days	96.4%	92.2%	87.2%	94.2%	84.7%	100.0%	100.0%	98.4%	96.4%	96.9%	98.8%	100.0%
CVUHB												
Weeks Waiting: Up to 4 weeks	86	57	76	10	8	4	6	11	36	43	72	65
Weeks Waiting: Total waiting	169	160	183	17	10	4	7	11	217	213	205	149
Percentage waiting less than 28 days	50.9%	35.6%	41.5%	58.8%	80.0%	100.0%	85.7%	100.0%	16.6%	20.2%	35.1%	43.6%
CTMUHB												
Weeks Waiting: Up to 4 weeks					61	62	118	100	70	88	124	130
Weeks Waiting: Total waiting					126	120	223	184	132	109	142	164
Percentage waiting less than 28 days					48.4%	51.7%	52.9%	54.3%	53.0%	80.7%	87.3%	79.3%
HDUHB												
Weeks Waiting: Up to 4 weeks	57	63	66	59	59	63	63	70	66	71	87	106
Weeks Waiting: Total waiting	62	66	67	64	61	70	70	80	70	73	89	107
Percentage waiting less than 28 days	91.9%	95.5%	98.5%	92.2%	96.7%	90.0%	90.0%	87.5%	94.3%	97.3%	97.8%	99.1%
PTHB												
Weeks Waiting: Up to 4 weeks	18	19	38	28	14	15	25	27	20	27	40	33
Weeks Waiting: Total waiting	20	21	42	35	25	18	29	34	20	29	41	36
Percentage waiting less than 28 days	90.0%	90.5%	90.5%	80.0%	56.0%	83.3%	86.2%	79.4%	100.0%	93.1%	97.6%	91.7%
SBUHB												
Weeks Waiting: Up to 4 weeks					69	88	64	53	32	55	67	54
Weeks Waiting: Total waiting					126	120	223	184	52	56	68	70
Percentage waiting less than 28 days					54.8%	73.3%	28.7%	28.8%	61.5%	98.2%	98.5%	77.1%

* The Wales totals excludes services provided by Betsi Cadwaladr.

Table 1B: Weighted average waiting time [week], by HB

HB	ABUHB	CVUHB*	CTUHB	HDUHB	PTHB**	ABMUHB*
Apr-18	3.2	3.7	3.6	1.3	..	4.1
May-18	3.3	3.8	3.1	1.2	..	2.8
Jun-18	3.1	3.9	3.5	1.3	..	3.2
Jul-18	2.4	4.3	4.2	1.5	..	3.8
Aug-18	3.3	5.6	5.5	1.2	..	4.3
Sep-18	2.2	5.0	5.3	1.2	..	3.6
Oct-18	1.8	4.3	4.4	2.0	..	3.7
Nov-18	1.6	3.1	3.1	1.6	..	3.2
Dec-18	2.0	4.3	4.3	1.9	..	3.8
Jan-19	1.9		4.2	1.4	..	
Feb-19	2.0	5.6	3.9	1.8	..	2.8
Mar-19	1.9	4.3	2.3	1.9	..	2.1

* Cwm Taf provided services for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg's and Cardiff & Vale's residents. Data provided by residence

** Powys have only provided data for the number of patients waiting up to 4 weeks and total waiting, so data by week is not available.

.. not available

HB	ABUHB	CVUHB	CTMUHB	HDUHB	PTHB**	SBUHB*	Wales
Apr-19	2.1	6.4	3.8	2.1	..	3.3	
May-19	1.5	7.1	3.7	1.7	..	2.8	
Jun-19	1.6	8.1	4.7	1.9	..	2.8	
Jul-19	1.4	9.1	4.1	2.0	..	4.2	
Aug-19	2.1	10.4	3.9	2.0	2.1	3.8	5.9
Sep-19	1.7	10.9	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.4	5.2
Oct-19	0.9	8.2	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.8	3.8
Nov-19	0.9	5.1	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.6	2.8

* Cwm Taf Morgannwg provide services for Swansea Bay's residents. Data provided by residence

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.. not available

Table 2A: Min and Max for each HB over the last 5 years

- Management information from April 2018 only
- For all HBs the minimum number of weeks waiting by a patient for any given month was 'Over 0 weeks and up to 1 week'.
- The table below shows the longest wait by a patient for an appointment, by provider and by month [the longest waited is shaded in yellow].

HB	ABUHB	CVUHB*	CTUHB	HDUHB	PTHB**	ABMUHB*
Apr-18	19 to 20	9 to 10	18 to 19	4 to 5	..	18 to 19
May-18	24 to 25	14 to 15	14 to 15	3 to 4	..	12 to 13
Jun-18	28 to 29	11 to 12	11 to 12	3 to 4	..	10 to 11
Jul-18	31 to 32	11 to 12	14 to 15	7 to 8	..	10 to 11
Aug-18	36 to 37	14 to 15	14 to 15	4 to 5	..	14 to 15
Sep-18	28 to 29	12 to 13	16 to 17	5 to 6	..	11 to 12
Oct-18	16 to 17	23 to 24	23 to 24	4 to 5	..	14 to 15
Nov-18	4 to 5	11 to 12	11 to 12	7 to 8	..	10 to 11
Dec-18	5 to 6	11 to 12	27 to 28	7 to 8	..	10 to 11
Jan-19	9 to 10		15 to 16	4 to 5	..	
Feb-19	11 to 12	14 to 15	Over 40	4 to 5	..	Over 40
Mar-19	18 to 19	10 to 11	12 to 13	4 to 5	..	6 to 7

* Cwm Taf provided services for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg's and Cardiff & Vale's residents. Data provided by residence

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HB	ABUHB	CVUHB	CTMUHB	HDUHB	PTHB**	SBUHB*
Apr-19	8 to 9	14 to 15	27 to 28	4 to 5	..	9 to 10
May-19	3 to 4	15 to 16	25 to 26	4 to 5	..	9 to 10
Jun-19	3 to 4	19 to 20	29 to 30	5 to 6	..	11 to 12
Jul-19	7 to 8	19 to 20	24 to 25	6 to 7	..	11 to 12
Aug-19	4 to 5	21 to 22	10 to 11	5 to 6	3 to 4	10 to 11
Sep-19	6 to 7	24 to 25	11 to 12	4 to 5	5 to 6	11 to 12
Oct-19	2 to 3	22 to 23	8 to 9	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5
Nov-19	3 to 4	21 to 22	8 to 9	4 to 5	8 to 9	8 to 9

* Cwm Taf Morgannwg provide services for Swansea Bay's residents. Data provided by residence

** Powys have only provided data for the number of patients waiting up to 4 weeks and total waiting, so data by week is not available.

.. not available

Key findings:

- There was one occurrence since April 2018 where a patient waited over 40 weeks for an appointment, February 2019 in ABMUHB. It is worth noting the service provider for this patient was Cwm Taf.
- There were large fluctuations within ABUHB [since April 2018] whilst HDUHB was the most consistent.