

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07653/12

William Powell AM

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

2 August 2012

Dear Bill,

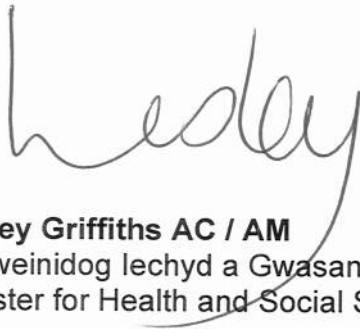
Thank you for your letter of 24 July regarding the petition urging the Welsh Government to fund the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales to the same degree as the Adult Eating Disorder Service.

The pattern of eating disorders is a complex one and the characteristics differ considerably between children, younger people and adults. The effects of eating disorders can be devastating and studies demonstrate the majority of cases begin to develop during adolescence. As stated in your letter, early identification and appropriate intervention improves the clinical outcome for many people with an eating disorder. In this respect the treatment of eating disorders is very much part of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) core business and sufferers form a considerable part of the overall CAMHS caseload. Some young people may recover from mild conditions which respond to interventions usually available within the first level specialist CAMHS (Tier 2). Others will require more specialised, intensive and on-going support provided by CAMHS at Tiers 3 and 4 and which can include residential and in-patient support.

The four-tier strategic model used within CAMHS provides an effective framework for service commissioning. It is also flexible enough to be the basis for designing services and for effective development of pathways which run from local services through to the most specialised of services. It reinforces the roles of primary care teams, generic psychiatric and physical health services in identifying, assessing, intervening with and monitoring people who have an eating disorder. This 'joined-up' approach ensures the most appropriate intervention is offered on the basis of clinical need.

Since the Eating Disorders Framework was published in June 2009, a model has been agreed for implementing a new specialist community framework. The framework has been issued to all Health Boards in Wales, who are now taking this forward. To improve the provision of treatment, care and training around the condition, the Framework outlines a new specialist community eating disorder service at the Adult Tier 3 level. This was established with the £1 million per year provided by the Welsh Government from 2010-2011. While this funding is aimed at providing provision for adults over 18, the all-Wales service has developed close links with CAMHS teams across Wales including Tier 4 CAMHS.

The aim is to create pathways for young people suffering with eating disorders, increase the sharing of knowledge amongst CAMHS staff, and facilitate the effective transition between CAMHS and adult services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley', written in a cursive style.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

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