

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/LG/0048/13

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Children and Young People Committee
National Assembly for Wales

9 January 2013

Dear Christine

Thank you for your request for an update on progress against the Neonatal Capacity Review published in January 2012.

As you recognised in the Committee report on Neonatal Care, much progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the capacity review. Each Local Health Board (LHB) has produced an action plan in response to the report and the Neonatal Network is monitoring progress on a six monthly basis. We have seen a modest increase within the nursing establishment to get closer to the required staffing standards. There has also been a small increase in cot numbers across Wales and I will be giving this further urgent consideration. The introduction and use of the cot locator system is also supporting LHBs to identify and manage availability of cots.

The next report, representing progress one year on, is due to be considered by the Neonatal Network in February. Therefore, I do not intend to provide a detailed update here as more up to date information will be available shortly and I will ensure the Committee receive a copy of the report.

I can assure you and your Committee, Neonatal services remain a priority. Welsh Government staff have visited each LHB and the Chief Executive of NHS Wales has spoken to all LHB Chief Executives about the delivery of neonatal services. We will monitor progress closely and LHBs will be held to account for the delivery of services.

Kind Regards
Lesley

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