

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/MD/221/15

Bethan Jenkins AM
Assembly Member for South Wales West
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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27 January 2015

Dear Bethan,

Following the 13 January Plenary debate on the Together for Mental Health Annual Report and your comments regarding Professor, Dame Sue Bailey's work with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), I wanted to write to you to clarify her role.

I have seen Prof. Bailey's letter which simply states she is not reviewing CAMHS on behalf of Welsh Government, rather she is offering external, independent advice for CAMHS in Wales as they undertake this work. This is entirely consistent with the Minister for Health and Social Services' previous public comments in relation to her role, including his evidence to the Children, Young People and Education Committee (CYPE), and Health and Social Services Committee (the latter in relation to scrutiny of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure.

To clarify, as stated in the Minister's letter to the Chair of the CYPE Committee on 23 October 2014, the changes are being led by the NHS. It is important this work is driven and terms of reference are set by the NHS, working with partners. Only by engendering a sense of ownership and consensus among CAMHS practitioners and other partners, including local authorities, can we hope to achieve the changes required. Prof. Bailey will support the NHS in this work, assuring the process; acting as an honest broker in asking the difficult questions; and ensuring the NHS engages with wider partners. Prof. Bailey will be able to bring considerable experience to bear, not only of children's emotional healthcare across the UK, but internationally.

During the debate you also touched on the issue of consultation. The Minister has already given a commitment to the Children's Commissioner and young CAMHS service users in December 2014 that he wanted consultation events, involving service users in particular, as this work develops throughout 2015, to ensure their voice is heard. He will also formally launch the work being undertaken at a partner and stakeholder event being held on 26 February.

Yours sincerely

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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