

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-492
Ein cyf/Our ref GT/00296/14

William Powell AM
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15 May 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April seeking an update on the actions the Welsh Government is taking to address the concerns raised by petitioners about Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnostic waiting times for children.

Since my last letter to the Committee in March I have written to both Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB and Cardiff and the Vale UHB to ask them to provide the waiting times information that was not included in their first response. I am pleased that both health boards have now provided further data on diagnostic waiting times which is summarised below. I also attach the full summary of the responses received to my original request for information, which can be shared with the NAS Pembrokeshire branch as they have requested.

Cardiff and the Vale UHB	ASD diagnostic waiting times for children are captured as part of the overall waiting times for community paediatrics, which currently stands at 20 weeks. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to improve the ASD diagnostic pathway which should result in ASD specific waiting times being available shortly.
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB	Average waiting times for ASD children's diagnosis referral to assessment are Swansea 15 weeks, Neath Port Talbot 17 weeks and Bridgend 13 weeks. There are different models of care in place based upon local arrangements for joint working.

I am grateful to the Petitions Committee and the parents group in Pembrokeshire for bringing this issue to my attention. Such is my concern that urgent action is required to address diagnostic waiting times I will be establishing a Task and Finish Group on children's diagnosis which will report to me with recommendations for actions to be taken forward in the implementation of the refreshed ASD Strategic Action Plan. I will ask this group to consider the points raised by the Pembrokeshire parents group in their letter to the Committee to which you refer. The refreshed ASD Strategic Action Plan will be published for consultation later this year and I do hope that members of the Pembrokeshire group will take the opportunity to respond.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwenda'.

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM

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