

**Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Ann Jones
Chair of the Children and Young People
Committee
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-04-408

September 2014

Dear

The Petitions Committee is currently considering the following petition:

Petition: P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales to the same degree as the Adult Eating Disorder Service in Wales.

It has come to my attention that there is a disparity in funding between Adult Services and Child and Adolescent Services as regards funding for Eating Disorder Treatment. At the present time Adult Eating Disorder Services receive £1 million per year from the Welsh Assembly, as well as 4 specialist trained provider groups.

Sadly research points to the fact that Eating Disorders, especially Anorexia Nervosa, are predominantly first experienced around puberty. Historically puberty was around 12-15, however, puberty is becoming younger and therefore statistics are beginning to show the prevalence of Anorexia Nervosa starting at younger ages is apparent. Bulimia Nervosa is generally a disease with an onset age of 18-25, however as with Anorexia this may differ from person to person. The fact that in both disorders, and indeed all diagnosable Eating Disorders, early intervention is the key to a quick recovery, therefore preventing long term financial implications for the WAG, makes this plea more pertinent.

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I therefore implore the Assembly to consider this a priority for debate and to mend this disparity by giving equal finances and services to the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder service in Wales as already given to Adult EDS.'

Further information relating to the Committee's consideration of the petition can be found via the following link:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/ielIssueDetails.aspx?IId=4197&Opt=3>

At our meeting on 1 July the Committee considered the attached correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services and the petitioner.

It was noted that the Children, Young People and Education Committee are currently undertaking an inquiry into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Therefore we agreed to highlight the petition to your Committee and ask whether the issues can be looked at as part of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely



William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

(Please respond to the Committee Clerk at: Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk)

Enclosure: Correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services dated 11 June.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MD/02252/14

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk

11 June 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-408 about Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Services (CAMHS ED).

When I made the announcement of additional funding for CAMHS ED services in October 2013, I was clear that this was specifically to improve ED services in south Wales and this is still the case. I made this announcement for south Wales, as the north Wales CAMHS unit already has experience and over capacity of provision, per head of the population. I also undertook to consider the wider needs of all-Wales following evaluation of activity in south Wales. Nevertheless, north Wales will benefit from the training being delivered by the funding; north Wales is also covering north Powys, while southern Powys is provided for from south Wales.

The funding is intended to provide dedicated specialist staff with experience in ED treatment, enhanced ED training for existing CAMHS staff and enable community outreach clinics to be expanded in south east and west Wales and also southern Powys. Local Health Boards are now progressing this and a dedicated training package has been developed in association with the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, the exemplar Eating Disorder Service in the country.

Recruitment is also progressing and, until the posts have been filled substantively, the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) have appointed a part time locum CAMHS Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Senior Nurse who began working from 1 June. Both the locum staff have a significant amount of experience in this field. The Consultant will be working one session per week in June and July and two per week from August. The Senior Nurse will provide two sessions a week. These sessions are in addition to the ones being provided into the existing Eating Disorder clinic at Ty Llidiard.

I have been clear from the outset that the funding is intended to ensure that more young people can be repatriated to Wales instead of being sent out of area. The savings on these out of area placements then being reinvested back into general provision CAMHS in Wales, instead of funding CAMHS services elsewhere in the UK.

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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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With regard to the comments about providing a state of the art facility for children with ED, this already exists in the two CAMHS inpatient facilities we have invested over £42m in at Abergele and Bridgend. A key priority of mine is to ensure these expensive resources are fully utilised and occupancy levels are increased, though this should be coupled with more community provision, as I believe hospitalisation should be the last resort. This is why the funding will also expand community clinics, these working in association with the expansion of Local Primary Mental Health Support Services, which have been created with £3.5m of Welsh Government funding as part of our Mental Health (Wales) Measure to ensure services are delivered as locally as possible.

I have previously stated that ED has always comprised a significant proportion of the CAMHS caseload, with, at any given time, around 40% of the inpatients in the south Wales Unit being there as a result of ED. Figures provided to me by WHSSC to inform the discussion we had in the Committee last October showed that during 2012-13 11 of 36 out of area placements were for an ED. These will have been for a variety of reasons, including the need for very highly specialised treatment only available at a handful of clinics in the UK, a lack of capacity within Wales, and risk factors.

I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services