

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

Ann Jones
Chair
Children, Young People and
Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

27 January 2015

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your letter of 15 January regarding our work to drive service change within CAMHS.

Although there appears to be some confusion, I feel I have been clear in my statements to Committee (including my letter of 23 October) about Professor Bailey's role. I can confirm that Professor Bailey will support the NHS to undertake the necessary work to secure the clinical change and development needed in CAMHS in Wales. This work is being led by the NHS CAMHS Network, chaired by Carol Shillabeer, the acting Chief Executive of Powys Teaching Health Board and supported by the Chief Medical Officer's Adviser in Child Psychiatry. Whilst initial scoping work has already been undertaken, I will formally launch the change process and consultation with stakeholders at a major conference on 26 February.

In terms of consultation, I would expect the Network and other relevant partners to consult on proposals for the future of the services. I have already assured the Children's Commissioner that service users would be consulted during the process.

I am aware of Bethan Jenkins' comments made during the Deputy Minister for Health's debate on the Together for Mental Health Annual Report on 13 January. He has written to Bethan to clarify the issues. I attach a copy of his letter, which also addresses some of the issues you raise, the only outstanding point being in relation to how much time Professor Bailey has agreed to devote to this work. Professor Bailey has already spent a considerable amount of gratis time prior to Christmas engaging with Welsh Government and key NHS stakeholders to develop her thinking around the issues.

During the current year she has committed to spend a day a month working with NHS CAMHS and partners, in addition to an unspecified amount of time she will need to devote, working from her north of England base, in developing her thinking and scoping the issues. Professor Bailey was clear when she accepted this commission that she did not want to take on the role unless she felt she could devote enough time to make a difference.

I will ensure that the Committee is kept informed of this work as it develops.

Best wishes,
Mark

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