

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-408  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01340/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
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10 May 2015

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter of 22 April on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-408 about Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Services (CAMHS ED).

I wrote to you in March with information regarding eating disorder treatment, the proposed refresh of the 2009 Eating Disorders: A Framework for Wales and the review of Tier 4 (inpatient) eating disorder services undertaken by Cwm Taf University Health Board. You will have seen the summary of the review which I provided with the letter, it noted the improvements in adult eating disorder provision arising from the implementation of the community teams and, for children and young people, that child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services already have considerable expertise in managing eating disorders. This should be further improved as a result of our £250,000 CAMHS investment. As such the review suggests that it may not be clinically or financially viable to develop a Tier 4 service within Wales.

With regard to the petitioner's comments regarding the funding disparity between adult and CAMHS services and our investment of £1m to improve specialist adult eating disorder provision, I have been clear in the past that CAMHS has always seen the treatment of eating disorders as part of its core business. This is evident from the review and the fact that around 40% of inpatient CAMHS admissions are related to eating disorders. Adult services have not previously had the same level of expertise and the £1m investment was to bring adult provision up to the same standard as CAMHS. I would also add that the costs of CAMHS provision cannot be compared directly with adult mental health provision as the

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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numbers of inpatient beds required to meet the clinical needs of adults are of a different order to that required for children.

I have asked the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) to provide an update on the £250,000 investment for CAMHS eating disorder services and will share this with the National Assembly in due course.

You will also be aware that to ensure sustainability of CAMHS the NHS is leading a reconfiguration of the service. This work is being supported by the Welsh Government, which has commissioned Professor Dame Sue Bailey to provide the external advice and scrutiny to the NHS as it seeks to embed a cultural and organisational change within CAMHS and its partners. As this work progresses there will be opportunity to engage in the consultation process for all stakeholders, including those with an interest in eating disorders.

Best wishes,

Mark

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