

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref : P-05-754  
Ein cyf/Our ref : VG/01470/17

David Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 July 2017

Dear David,

I am writing following the letter of 19 June following my response of 10 May regarding Petition P-05-754 and the Committee's further questions about CAMHS.

The committee asked '*whether it is typical across Wales for children with learning disabilities not to be able to access CAMHS crisis care teams*'. CAMHS crisis teams are for acute mental illness crisis. If a child has this then they should be seen, irrespective of whether they have a learning disability (LD) for an initial assessment and treatment if it is thought they have mental illness or disorder. All Health Boards have enhanced capacity for treatment of LD following additional funding in 2011.

The committee also asked '*whether there are any plans to expand access to these services*'. The Together for Children and Young People (T4CYP) Neurodevelopment work-stream is beginning to identify the support needed for LD children. We would hope that the evidence produced by the work-stream will be used by local multiagency planning groups to deliver their responsibilities to the families and children of this group, supported by Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and Wellbeing and Future Generations Act.

In addition to the work of T4CYP, the cross government learning disability transformation programme will review existing policies, frameworks and provision and develop proposals for action at local, regional and national level designed to strengthen service delivery and improve its sustainability. The review will look at health, social care, education, employment, skills and housing services for people with Learning Disabilities. It will also consider funding arrangements, commissioning and workforce themes for example and a detailed implementation framework will be produced.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Health Boards and local authorities will shape their care and support services based on the needs of their population. They have recently published the first combined population assessment reports on the health board footprint. These assessments provide a clear and specific evidence base to inform a range of planning and operational decisions, including in relation to needs for mental health services in an area.

Regional partnership boards, made up of the health board, local authorities, third sector and others in each region must prepare area plans by April 2018 setting out how they will respond to the care and support needs identified in the population assessment. This will include consideration of specific core themes including children and young people and mental health.

The needs of children with a learning disability, including mental health needs should be met where possible by generic services. Where these needs extend to more specialised or acute support there must be arrangements in place to facilitate access to that support. Through the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act we are driving integration across statutory partners to ensure the pathways to specialist health and social care are in place for individuals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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