

Comisiynydd
Plant Cymru

Children's
Commissioner
for Wales

Lynne Neagle

Chair
Children, Young People
and Education
Committee

By email only

18 January 2019

Dear Lynne,

Re: Tier 4 CAMHS in-patient services in Wales.

In my appearance in front of your committee on 22nd November 2018, you asked a question around in-patient mental health units in Wales, following your attendance at a Policy Forum for Wales conference where Healthcare Inspectorate Wales presented, and had raised some concerns.

I wanted to come back to you on this issue, as I have recently visited Ty Llidiard in Bridgend as part of my routine visits to in-patient units in Wales.

I attach a letter I wrote to Professor Marcus Longley following this visit, and his response, which promises to keep me updated on the improvement works.

I also attach a letter I have written to HIW asking them to give their current view on the situation. I will update you further once I receive a reply from them.

It is clear to me that current provision is not able to provide fully for children with extremely complex needs in Wales, particularly following the recent inspection of Regis Healthcare in Ebbw Vale and the subsequent removal of Welsh patients. This is something that I will raise in my next meeting with the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Yours sincerely,



Sally

Sally Holland
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Children's Commissioner for Wales

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Plant Cymru

Children's
Commissioner
for Wales



Ty^ Ystumllwynarth/Oystermouth
House
Llys Siarter/Charter Court, Phoenix Way
Abertawe/Swansea SA7 9FS
01792 765600

post@comisiynyddplant.cymru
post@childrenscommissioner.wales

comisiynyddplant.cymru
childrenscommissioner.wales

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Sally Holland

By e-mail only

To: Professor Marcus Longley, Chair of Cwm Taf University Health Board

19 December 2018

Dear Marcus,

Re: Ty Llidiard Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

I recently visited the above unit, and met with young people who are currently in-patients, ward managers, teaching staff, and the senior management team.

It was very helpful for me to discuss with the staff the current situation at Ty Llidiard, following the tragic incident in March 2018.

It is encouraging to hear that action has been taken in terms of interim safety measures to ensure that the most high-risk referrals are no longer being accepted at Ty Llidiard, on the grounds that the environment of the unit is not deemed safe enough.

I am reassured to hear that plans for renovations to the built environment of Ty Llidiard are planned in the New Year, so that the unit can take on those referrals again. However, I am concerned for the children who, while these renovations are taking place, cannot be accommodated. My understanding is that they may be required to move to units in England or Scotland, often at some considerable distance from their families, if they are unable to be cared for in Ty Llidiard.

I would be grateful to be kept updated on the work to improve safety at Ty Llidiard, and the progress on ensuring that children and young people with a wider range of needs are once again able to be admitted to the unit. Please would you confirm with me the likely timescale for completion of the work and the re-admittance of children whose needs are unable to be met at the current time?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Holland
Children's Commissioner for Wales



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf
University Health Board

Your ref/eich cyf: ML/TLT
Our ref/ein cyf: 2 January 2019
Date/Dyddiad: 01443 744803
Tel/ffôn: 01443 744800
Fax/ffacs: Marcus.longley@wales.nhs.uk
Email/ebost: Chair & Chief Executive
Dept/adran:

Ms Sally Holland
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Oystermouth House
Carter Court
Phoenix Way
Llansamlet
Swansea
SA7 9FS

Dear Sally

Thank you for your letter of the 19 December 2018, following your recent visit to Ty Llidiard.

I am glad to hear that you had a positive series of meetings with the young patients on the unit as well as the direct clinical and senior managerial staff on site.

The whole team has worked hard over the course of the past 9 months to respond to issues identified by HIW and also through our own rigorous root cause analysis of the tragic incident in March 2018. This is leading to a better level of care for the patients with an emphasis on the MDT approach and the greater inclusion of patients in their ongoing care and treatment decisions.

The Board has been kept briefed on the matter, in particular through the Quality Safety and Risk Committee and there has been a very constructive ongoing dialogue with WHSSC in terms of managing the short term issues of risk based admissions and also the longer term future and potential uses for the unit.

The senior consultant at Ty Llidiard has assessed that since the restricted criteria for admission have been in place (April 2018) there are 4 cases that have been patients required to be placed out of area. This is from a base of zero such instances in the previous year. The team are keen to return to a position where zero is the norm.

Return Address: Ynysmeurig House, Unit 3, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

The works required to ensure that the unit can safely look after higher risk adolescents are due to commence with the anti-ligature works elements on 18 February 2019 due for completion by 11 April 2019. This work is being undertaken on a room by room basis to ensure that the unit can remain functional.

The works on the higher level security fencing are out to tender and it is anticipated that this too will be completed by late April/early May 2019.

A judgement on the criteria for admission will be kept under review and amended as soon as it is fit to do so. I will very happily keep you informed on progress.

Once again thanks for your visits and feedback which is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Longley', written in a cursive style.

**PROFESSOR MARCUS LONGLEY
CHAIR/CADEIRYDD**

Kate Chamberlain,
Chief Executive,
Healthcare Inspectorate
Wales,
Welsh Government,
Rhydycar Business Park,
Merthyr Tydfil,
CF48 1UZ

18 January 2019

Dear Kate,

Re: Tier 4 CAMHS Services in Wales

I am writing to you following concerns raised with me around provision of semi-secure in-patient CAMHS services in Wales. These concerns were raised at a scrutiny session of the Children, Young People and Education Committee by an Assembly Member who had attended a presentation by a member of your staff. In the presentation it had been noted that there have been concerns about safety in Tier 4 provision in Wales.

I recently visited Ty Llidiard, where I met with young people who are currently in-patients, ward managers, teaching staff, and the senior management team. Following this visit, I wrote to the Chair of Cwm Taf Health Board, Marcus Longley. I attach a copy of that letter, and his response.

As I wrote to Professor Longley, while I am pleased that action has been taken at Ty Llidiard to make safety improvements, I am very concerned that four vulnerable young people have been placed out of area who would otherwise have been accommodated at Ty Llidiard.

The situation, as I understand it, is that Ty Llidiard and Abergele are both in a position whereby they are operating a restricted admissions criteria, and are unable to accept higher-risk patients than they would previously have cared for.

Given the situation at Ty Llidiard and at Abergele, and the recent decision to remove all Welsh patients from the Regis Healthcare facility in Ebbw Vale, it would be helpful to have your current view on safety concerns across these settings, the provision of tier 4 CAMHS services in general, and on the future prospects for improvement across these facilities.

Yours sincerely,



Sally

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