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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd  
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)  
Welsh Health Specialised  
Services Committee (WHSSC)

Your ref/eich cyf:  
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Date/dyddiad: 18 February 2019  
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Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

Dear Lynne,

**Re: Child and Adolescent Mental Health: in-patient provision**

Thank you for your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> of January sent on behalf of the Children, Young People and Education Committee. You asked for further information on a number of areas and I have responded to each of these questions in turn:

**• *Please could you confirm the current options available for patients living in Wales who require in-patient CAMHS care.***

The current arrangements are that there are NHS inpatient beds available in both north and south Wales. These are provided by the North Wales Adolescent Services (NWS), Abergele and Ty Llidiard, Bridgend respectively.

If a patient has very specialised needs such as learning or physical disability or they require secure accommodation they are placed outside Wales through the Welsh CAHMS Framework which selects providers according to quality, cost and location. The framework is also used to identify beds if there is no capacity amongst Welsh NHS providers.

In the event that no beds are available on the Framework placements can be made with other providers of Tier 4 beds (subject to the required regulator registration). If no beds are available for CAMHS services within the UK, alternative inpatient provision within health boards, for example, adult mental health or general paediatric beds are used, however CAHMS input is still always provided as required by the Care and Treatment Plan.

**• *Please could you outline the impact on current practice of the restrictions applied to in-patient mental health care settings in Wales (for example: are children and young people now being admitted to adult wards where hospitalisation is unavoidable and/or for longer***

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***whilst placements are being commissioned from England or elsewhere? Are there sufficient designated wards available? Are Health Boards instead utilising their home treatment team)***

WHSSC currently commissions 12 beds from NWAS however the service has been operating at a reduced capacity of 10 beds over an extended period of time. This is due to significant workforce challenges and the increasingly complex needs of patients. WHSSC are working closely with NWAS through their quality escalation process to return to the 12 bed commissioned capacity. The timing will be determined by clinical risk assessments.

The Ty Llidiard service is operating at commissioned capacity however since March 2018 there has been a tightening of the admission criteria in response to a risk assessment of the physical environment. The service will continue to operate the admission criteria within the current policy until the remedial works to the building have been completed.

The above change has led to a small number of patients (6) being placed out of area who previously would have been able to access NHS services in Wales. The detail is included in the table below.

WHSSC does not have access to information on how and where patients are looked after prior to Tier 4 referral. We therefore cannot comment on the admission to age appropriate beds on adult wards or the use of home treatment teams. The monitoring of use of designated wards/age appropriate beds is carried out by Welsh Government and they should be able to provide information regarding the level of use.

As described above when no general CAHMS beds are available in NHS Wales' providers Framework placements are sought as a matter of urgency.

***• Please describe the arrangements you have in place for monitoring and reviewing arrangements where you commission in-patient CAMHS care. Please provide information in relation to services commissioned in both Wales and England (and beyond, if relevant).***

**Welsh NHS providers:** WHSSC receive regular monthly monitoring returns from the 2 Welsh NHS units identifying bed usage including the number of patient admissions, discharges and the numbers of patients on home leave. WHSSC also have contract & performance meetings with the health boards and the 2 units are considered within those wider meetings.

Currently issues concerning quality are reported through standard health boards systems such as Datix monitoring and HIW inspections. These are followed up by WHSSC quality team and reported through the WHSSC Quality & Patient Safety Committee as appropriate. Recently, however, WHSSC has agreed an SLA for routine annual monitoring of NHS Wales providers by the Quality Assurance & Improvement Service (QAIS) which manages the Framework. This now ensures consistency between the required quality standards of NHS Wales

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and Framework providers. In addition both units are currently being managed through the WHSSC quality escalation process and therefore subject to regular quality visits.

**Framework Providers:** The Framework providers are monitored through QAIS who undertake site audits and monitor performance via a national Commissioning Care Assurance Performance System (CCAPS) database. All patients requiring Tier 4 inpatient CAMHS beds, irrespective of whether they are looked after by a Welsh NHS provider or by a Framework provider are subject to part 2 of Mental Health Measure and will have a health board/local authority care co-ordinator who is responsible for agreeing and reviewing individual care & treatment plans.

**• Please provide information about the numbers of in-patient CAMHS places you have commissioned in Wales and outside, per month, for the last 12 months (up to and including January 2019).**

The number of placements in inpatient CAMHS beds excluding the 2 NHS units during the last 12 months is 28 with 3 of these placements in being in private providers in Wales.

<b>Month (Year)</b>	<b>Total No of CAMHS patients</b>	<b>No of MS Forensic placements</b>	<b>No of LS/PICU placements</b>	<b>Number of generic CAMHS placements</b>
Feb `18	1		1	
Mar `18	3		3	
Apr `18	0			
May `18	2	1	1	
Jun `18	0			
Jul `18	4	2	1	1
Aug `18	3		2	1
Sept `18	1			1
Oct `18	5		3	2
Nov `18	4		1	3
Dec `18	3	1		2
Jan `19	2		2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>

**Note:**

Of the 10 generic out of areas placements only 6 were due to capacity constraints and 4 were related to specific patient need.

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There are currently 11 Welsh CAMHS patients placed outside of Wales. Of these patients 2 are in Forensic Medium Secure units, 6 are in Low Secure units and only 3 are in general CAMHS beds.

I hope this information is helpful to the committee. Please let us know if additional information or clarification is required.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sian Lewis  
Managing Director

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