

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair of the Children and Young People Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
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Dear Christine

In response to your letter of 19 October, below is the additional information on the points you raised following my attendance at the Children and Young People Committee meeting.

**Transparency (& Ring fenced funding)**

Local Health Boards are best placed to decide how much of their budget they should spend on services for children. They will make that judgement based on their detailed understanding of the needs of their resident population. I do not think it appropriate for me to set a budget nationally for expenditure on children.

I do acknowledge the Committee has a valid interest in the amount of the health budget spent on treating children and young people across Wales. Currently, the only routinely collected information we have relating to spending on specific services for children relates to paediatrics, paediatric surgery, health visiting and school nursing, and CAMHS. As I mentioned in Committee, the spending on these services increased from £202 million in 2009-10 to £208 million in 2010-11, an increase of 3%. We will shortly have the 2011-12 analysis of expenditure, which I will share with the committee in due course.

With regard to ring-fencing, I have said on a number of occasions I consider it to be a blunt tool and a more appropriate focus is on the outcomes being delivered for the investment in services. Within the funding allocated to Health Boards, ring-fencing is now restricted to priority services, including mental health, learning disabilities and renal services. In addition, the funding for the General Medical and General Dental contracts is ring-fenced in recognition of the contractual commitments this funding covers, as well as the commitment to shift the balance of investment from secondary to primary care services.

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

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## **National Adoption Service**

I am pleased with the interest your committee has taken on the proposed National Adoption Service. The Deputy Minister has made it clear publically from the outset, there will be no new money for this service. The National Adoption Service will, however, benefit from effective financial governance, the development of pooled budgets and this inter-relation between budgets will provide for smarter working and lead to significant long term savings.

The foundation for the Sustainable Social Services Programme of changes has been made through the protection of Social Services budgets in the Local Authority Revenue Support Grant and an investment of over £35 million over the three year period from 2011-12. We will continue to work with Local Government on the discharge of functions and incorporate developments within existing resources

## **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

I am particularly proud of the improvements in CAMHS brought about by the Welsh Government in recent years. Funding in excess of £2m per annum has enabled an expansion of CAMHS. This was evidenced by independent mapping of CAMHS undertaken by Durham University between 2007-08 and 2010-11. This showed an expansion in the CAMHS workforce of 25%, growth in the number of cases worked with and consultations conducted and associated reductions in waiting lists and waiting times. I do not wish to endanger this progress.

For too long CAMHS has been seen as outside of mainstream mental health provision. This has led to the establishment of artificial barriers, manifesting itself particularly in relation to transition. By bringing CAMHS, adult and older people's services together, Together for Mental Health seeks to break down barriers and ensure services work seamlessly to ensure people have access to the right services, at the right time to meet their needs, irrespective of age. Clearly CAMHS will need to work closely with all children's services. This is integral to the holistic cross agency working described in Together for Mental Health.

As for the ring fence, I have made it clear on many occasions the mental health ring fence funding remains in place. This has served mental health well in recent years, as demonstrated by the expansion of CAMHS. That is not to say there is no room for efficiencies and where these are made, I have made clear they can only be reinvested in mental health services. The ring fence has been in place for several years now and is broadly supported by stakeholders. The delivery plan of Together for Mental Health provides an opportunity for me to consider whether a review is required by 2015, but also gives a commitment to ensure there is more consistency and transparency in recording of expenditure. This is particularly pertinent in respect of CAMHS, which is a much smaller service than its adult counterpart. I want to ensure funding is targeted at areas of greatest need and where the maximum benefit can be gained.

## **CAFCASS Cymru**

The adjustments to the CAFCASS Cymru Action in 2013-14 will enable the organisation to maintain its funding at 2011-12 levels, allowing it to maintain its operational staff base as well as continuing to provide support to Contact Centres and Contact Activity Providers across Wales.

When the running cost funding for CAFCASS Cymru was transferred from the Central Admin and Services Main Expenditure Group in 2011-12 it came with a budget reducing at the rate of 5% per annum. This meant that the previous published budgets for CAFCASS Cymru were £9.635m in 2012-13 and £9.167m in 2013-14. As the Deputy Minister said at

the recent Children and Young People Committee meeting, the adjustment to reinstate the budget in 2012-13 to its 2011-12 level could not be made in the first supplementary budget. This will therefore be corrected at the second supplementary budget, adjusting the published budget to £10.162m for 2012-13. The adjustment to the 2013-14 draft budget will re-instate the CAF/CASS Cymru budget to this level for next and future financial years.

### **Children's Rights**

As part of the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services' response at committee she quoted a particular budget line of £90k that takes forward some innovative and exciting pieces of work to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC as stated in the Rights of Children and Young Person's (Wales) Measure 2011. However, the Deputy Minister would like to clarify this budget line sits within the wider Support for Children's Rights BEL of £1.305m all of which is allocated to taking forward children's rights.

### **Additional Information**

At committee, I agreed to provide additional information on two separate issues which I have included below:

### **Together for Mental Health – Diagnosis and Management of ADHD**

Working with children with ADHD and their families forms a significant proportion of the work of specialist CAMHS at present. As already mentioned, our investment in CAMHS in recent years has seen a significant expansion and improvement of services. We also need to ensure that CAMHS is able to work with other services to identify and treat, not just ADHD, but a wide range of conditions early. The establishment of Schools Based Counselling in each secondary school, provides a route to refer directly into specialist CAMHS, whilst the investment of £5.5m annually from 2013-14 for the implementation of the Mental Health Measure will enable an expansion of primary mental health services for all ages.

### **National Oral Health Plan**

Consultation on the National Oral Health Plan closed on 12 October. To date, Welsh Government has received over 50 responses which are currently being considered by my officials. I expect the final plan to be published early next year with details of any additional funding linked to the plan being announced at that time.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House.



**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

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