

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/01288/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
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11 June 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-505 – Eating Disorder Unit in Wales.

I am aware of the petition from Keira Marlow and I note her concerns in relation to this matter.

As with all other services, it is the responsibility of health boards to provide health services to meet the needs of their population according to their clinical need. The vast majority of people with eating disorders who require inpatient care would be treated locally within child and adolescent or adult mental health services where they can get the appropriate care and treatments which includes specialist care for eating disorders.

Whilst there are currently no single condition adult eating disorder units in Wales, within Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) both of the Welsh inpatient units have significant specialist experience of managing young people with eating disorders, as around 40% of inpatients are admitted for conditions relating to eating disorders.

In 2012, we made annual funding of £1 million available to develop specialist community eating disorder teams for adults. Since 2013, we have invested an additional £250,000 a year in CAMHS services, which has provided new specialist staff and funded additional training for both inpatient and community services. This ensures that most people can be treated early and prevent the disorder escalating and requiring specialist inpatient care. It also ensures on the rare occasions when people do need to leave Wales for treatment they have the support they need to allow a speedier return.

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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.

A review of inpatient eating disorder provision in Wales undertaken by Cwm Taf University Health Board on behalf of the Welsh Government in 2015 concluded there was no strong case for development of dedicated eating disorder provision at this time and given the investment in both adult and children's provision in recent years.

It may also be useful for the Committee to know that the Welsh Government's 2017-18 budget includes proposals to increase funding for eating disorder services in Wales by an additional £500,000. We are currently in the process of discussing with health boards how best to use this funding to benefit people with eating disorders.

In relation to the results of the formal review of the Eating Disorders Framework, an update of the evidence underpinning the Framework was undertaken by Public Health Wales in 2016. Our Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2016-19 includes a commitment to consider the need to review the *Eating Disorders Framework* following publication of NICE Guidance on Recognition and Treatment of Eating Disorders by March 2018. The NICE guidance was published in May 2017 and we will consider the need now to review the Framework.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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