

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-04-408  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/02062/17

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

[government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

29 August 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 7 August in your capacity as Chair of the Petitions Committee, regarding Petition No. P-04-408 - Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales (CAMHS).

The Welsh Government takes mental health very seriously and this is why it is the largest area of health expenditure with ring-fenced funding of £629million in the current year.

In relation to funding for CAMHS services, we recognise the importance of children's mental health services and we have invested almost £8million of additional funding annually in CAMHS in recent years to speed up access to services and expand existing provision, particularly in relation to talking therapies, which form a core component in the treatment of eating disorders.

Of the £8million additional funding, £2.7million has also been specifically used to establish CAMHS crisis care teams. These teams work expanded hours in the evenings and at weekends to ensure young people presenting in crisis at accident and emergency units and elsewhere are able to have their needs met in a timely fashion.

The Together for Children and Young People (T4CYP) programme, launched in February 2015, is about ensuring the current system works more effectively across all sectors, not just specialist NHS services. One of the priorities of T4CYP has been to develop a care pathway for young people with co-morbid eating disorders.

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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.

The latest data we have for the number of under 18 year old Welsh residents admitted where the primary diagnosis was for an eating disorder has remained relatively static in recent years. In 2016-2017, the figure was 98 young people from Wales.

We know that CAMHS services see the treatment of eating disorders as part of its core business and the Welsh Government has sought to strengthen this area, through the provision of an additional £250,000 per annum to recruit new specialist staff, up-skill existing staff and expand out-patient services.

You may have also seen my recent announcement of an additional £500,000 per annum to improve the transition experience of young people with an eating disorder from CAMHS to adult mental health services, in which we have also invested an additional £1million per annum.

I hope this is helpful.

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 on the 'g'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport