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Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/WQ82927

FAO: Andrew RT Davies, MS, South Wales Central
AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales

17 August 2021

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your written question to me on the 22nd July regarding Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's referral times for local primary mental health services.

Welsh Government have a rigorous process in place to ensure that referral times for mental health services, including local and primary mental health, are routinely and consistently assessed across all health board areas in Wales. The performance of health boards against waiting time targets, including for mental health, is monitored as part of the Welsh Government and NHS Joint Executive Team meetings and the Quality and Delivery meetings.

Cardiff and Vale Health University Health Board has seen a sustained high level of referrals between September 2020 and March 2021 while managing a number of staffing issues. Officials have had several meetings with the health board regarding its performance against the Mental Health (Wales) Measure Data (Part 1) referral to assessment target. As a result, Welsh Government has provided additional funding to the health board to support service improvements in a number of priority areas, including local primary mental health services. My officials continue to meet with the health board to monitor these improvements and consider any further actions.

On the 13th July, I met with Vice Chairs from all health boards. I reiterated the need to ensure timely access to quality mental health services. I made it clear that this will remain a focus for me as we begin to recover from the pandemic.

Additionally, the Director General for Health and Social Services / NHS Wales Chief Executive and I are due to meet Cardiff and Vale University Health Board this month. We will be discussing progress and I will be seeking assurance that these plans to address the concerns of the health board's performance of the referral to assessment target will be delivered. The health board has provided assurance that it is fully committed to making the necessary improvements to meet the waiting times target. I expect to receive an update of progress at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

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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.

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