



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ80512 / WQ80513

Helen Mary Jones MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

13 June 2020

Dear Helen,

I'm writing in response to:

WQ80512: With the coronavirus crisis creating a rise in calls to advice services for eating disorders, when does the Minister envisage future additional funding will be available for the improvement of eating disorder services?

WQ80513: In light of the coronavirus crisis, when does the Minister intend to now provide an update on the eating disorder service review?

Following the additional investment of £700k in 2019/20, eating disorder services continue to be a priority for Welsh Government, and we remain committed to working towards the vision set out in the 2018 Review of Eating Disorder Services. There have unfortunately been inevitable delays to actions intended to take this forward due to the current pandemic, such as further investment and the recruitment of a central resource to coordinate a national response. As soon as it is possible we will work with the NHS to redouble efforts to focus on achieving these actions, including the recruitment of a central resource.

In addition to the £700k allocated specifically for eating disorders last year, £7 million of recurrent funding across all mental health service improvement was made available for 2020/21. There would normally have been conditions attached to this funding, which would have ensured investment and continued alignment with the 2018 review, amongst other key priorities set out in the new Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-22. However, given the demands placed on services by COVID-19, the first six months of funding was released to ensure that health boards had the continuity and flexibility to respond to the current context. As this initial six month period draws to a close, we will consider how future funding can achieve a balance between the priorities of the review into eating disorder services and the demands placed on services as a result of COVID-19.

I recognise the additional burden that has been placed on services and the third sector as a result of the pandemic, and the specific challenges for eating disorder services as a result of

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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.

lockdown conditions. In the absence of formal reporting, we are monitoring eating disorder issues as part of the weekly mental health monitoring tool. My officials are also undertaking discussions with the third sector to identify how support can best be offered to maintain the important work being undertaken by these advice services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services