

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg
Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Lynne Neagle MS
Chair
Children Young Peoples and Education Committee

31 March 2021

Dear Lynne,

Further to my update on perinatal mental health, I write with the outstanding information you have requested. I apologise for any confusion and delay in responding to these outstanding questions.

Further details about the arrangements in place to monitor referrals to mental health services and the capacity of those services to meet needs, including information about the role of the Mental Health Incident Group established by the Welsh Government.

Additional information about the new group you will be establishing as referred to in your oral evidence.

At the onset of the pandemic we moved quickly (in March 2020) to convene the Welsh Government/NHS Mental Health Incident Group (MHIG) to support mental health services in managing and delivering services during this difficult time. This group, which is led by Welsh Government comprises senior representation from the NHS, Social Care Wales, Health Inspectorate Wales and Care Inspectorate Wales and has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the crisis. Importantly, the MHIG also includes officials from Knowledge and Analytical Services to ensure that decisions or recommendations by the MHIG have, and continue to be, informed by the latest evidence.

To support the work of the MHIG we continue to meet twice a month with the health board Covid-19 Mental Health leads, CAMHS clinical leads and also very regularly with the Wales Alliance for Mental Health. These arrangements provide a rounded picture to the MHIG of service issues, pressures, service user experience and wider intelligence.

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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.

In December 2020 the Minister for Mental Health, Well-being and the Welsh Language announced the establishment of a *Together for Mental Health Ministerial Delivery and Oversight Board* for Wales. This board will improve co-ordination and pace of this work as well as providing greater clarity on roles and responsibility, creating a tighter 'programme management' approach to the overall arrangements.

Importantly the functions of the board will include the entirety of the cross government Together for Mental Health Strategy, Talk to me 2 Suicide and Self-harm Strategy and the mental health response required as we recover from Covid-19.

A strong feature of the Board will be its ability to consider and take account of the latest analytical and wider evidence of the measures needed to prevent and support mental health at both a population level and within mental health services. Therefore, the membership of the board will include knowledge and analytical colleagues along with a clear link with academia to ensure our approach during and following the pandemic continues to be based on evidence.

The Board has met twice, on 24 February and most recently on 24 March. I enclose its Terms of Reference for your information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg
Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language

Terms of Reference

Summary
<p>This Board has been established to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the continued response to the mental health impact of Covid-19; • Strengthen oversight and assurance for the delivery of '<i>Together for Mental Health</i>' strategy and associated delivery plan; and • Monitor evidence to inform the future programme of work and the successor to the Together for Mental Health Strategy.

Introduction

1. The new Board will be known as the Together for Mental Health Ministerial Delivery and Oversight Board for Wales (the D&O Board). The rationale for establishing the Board is to strengthen the current governance arrangements for the overarching Together for Mental Health (TfMH) Strategy, the 2019-22 Delivery Plan and associated programmes of work, in order to provide greater clarity on roles and responsibilities and to create a tighter 'programme management' approach to these arrangements.
2. As well as making governance and accountability arrangements clearer, the aim is to reduce the complexity of the current arrangements as well as ensuring that longer term arrangements are in place to provide oversight, guidance and expert advice.

Scope

3. The scope of the Board's work covers the entirety of the TfMH Strategy, including the mental health response to Covid-19. This includes:
 - The continued response to, and impact of, Covid-19 on mental health, particularly as we transition from the emergency arrangements put in place
 - The Together for Mental Health Strategy and current Delivery Plan (including the Mental Health Act 1983, The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLs) / Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 and the mental health prevention work led by Public Health Wales
 - Talk to Me 2 – the suicide and self-harm strategy
 - The Mental Health Crisis Concordat and associated Delivery Plan
 - Analysis of the impact of the current strategy, to inform the shape of the successor to *Together for Mental Health*.

It does not include issues of learning disability or neurodiversity.

4. The D&O Board has a performance management role in relation to the delivery of commitments in the TfMH Delivery Plan and related Senedd Committee reports. Its scope excludes individual LHB service performance issues, which would continue to be picked up as part of the routine Joint Executive Team meetings (including mental health-specific pre-JET meetings) and the Quality, Safety and Delivery Board. However, the Board will play an important role in understanding the context of any performance issues and supporting improvements at a national level.

Role of the Project Board

5. The role of the Board is to:

- provide assurance to the Minister/NHS Chief Executive on the work within the scope of the Board
- strengthen and systemise the analytical input into future mental health policy development, as well as take a stronger role in driving the necessary mental health service improvements as set out in the refreshed Delivery Plan
- provide oversight for the continued mental health response to Covid-19 (for the period of time that the pandemic continues to impact on mental health services)
- provide analysis of the impact of current strategy to inform the future strategy for mental health
- link with academia to ensure our approach is based on evidence.

Membership

6. The Board is to be chaired by the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language. Membership will include senior representation for the key work streams reporting into the Board, including:

- Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan (cross-Government Officials Group and NPB)
- Talk to Me too – suicide and self-harm prevention programme
- Mental Health Core Data Set
- Mental Health Workforce Strategy development
- Mental Health Crisis Care Assurance Group
- Mental Health Network Board (adult, CAMHS sub-group and perinatal work programmes)
- Implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards
- Response to the UK Government White Paper
- Provision of services through the medium of Welsh
- Public Health Wales programmes for mental health prevention

7. Membership also includes the following key senior roles and partners with responsibility for mental health:

- Vice Chair representative
- The National Mental Health Programme Director (also representing T4CYP and All Age Mental Health Network Board)
- Director of the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit
- NHS Delivery Unit
- Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee
- Association of Directors of Social Services
- Welsh Government Officials (Health and Social Care)
- Knowledge and Analytical Services (Welsh Government)
- Academic experts (on an ad hoc basis)
- Third Sector

8. Other officials and stakeholders will be asked to attend the Project Board meetings to provide advice when appropriate. For example, additional policy colleagues, representatives from Knowledge and Analytical Services and colleagues from the HSS Legislation Team and Legislative Programme and Governance Unit may attend as required.

9. Because this is designed to be a delivery and oversight board, service users will not be represented directly on the Board. However the Board will have a role in ensuring that reporting workstreams include service user representation as appropriate. The National Partnership Board will remain the main mechanism for service user and stakeholder engagement.

Governance Arrangements

10. The Board is directly accountable to the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language and the Director General for HSS.
11. The following groups will have a line of accountability to the Board:
 - The National Mental Health Partnership Board (*which would become the main stakeholder/service user group*)
 - The Mental Health Incident Group (Covid-19: time limited)
 - The Mental Health Crisis Concordat
 - The Mental Health Programme in the NHS Collaborative led by the National Programme Director
 - Mental Health (and Substance Misuse) cross-Government Officials Group
 - The Liberty Protection Safeguards Strategic Implementation Group for Wales
 - Mental Health Core Dataset Group
12. The Board will consider and take account of the latest analytical and wider evidence of the measures needed to prevent and support mental health at both a population level and within mental health services. In doing so, it will be supported by Knowledge and Analytical Services to monitor and analyse the latest evidence to support the work programme.
13. Project Board meetings will be held monthly. If a member is unable to attend they may nominate a colleague to attend on their behalf. The agenda and supporting papers will be circulated 5 days prior to Project Board meetings. Regular papers will include a detailed working timetable, a monthly progress and highlights report, a risk register and an issues log.
14. Secretariat support is to be provided by Welsh Government officials.

Review

15. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they remain fit for purpose and that appropriate membership is maintained.