

Julie Morgan AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-859  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00976/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

13 October 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 31 August to the Minister for Health and Social Services. I am responding on this issue as Deputy Minister for Social Services.

Your letter asks what considerations of the final evaluation of the pilot Child House in London have been taken, following our commitment to consider this, in response to petition P-05-859 Provide Child Houses in Wales for victims of child sexual abuse.

As you are aware the final [evaluation report](#) was published in June 2021. The report highlights the positive achievements of the operation of The Lighthouse project. I note that in summary the evaluation suggests:

*Exploring impact triangulated across a range of data – compared to a BAU; Lighthouse delivered more, had more positive wellbeing outcomes, had more positive investigative actions but no difference in terms of charges or convictions. Cost data indicated that Lighthouse was more expensive than the BAU but may be able to generate a more positive financial return over a long time period.*

I am advised that the current work being developed in Wales has been usefully informed by learning at The Lighthouse. I am confident that the approach being taken in Wales is the right approach, with a clear central focus on child-centred, trauma informed services for child victims of sexual abuse.

As the First Minister and myself have set out in the past, the geography of Wales and the number of children who need this service means that having a single 'Childhouse' in Wales would not be in children's best interests. Our concern is that investment in a single location for a service of this kind would mean that some children would have to travel great distances to receive support.

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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 Welsh Sexual Assault Services Programme is an improvement project led by the NHS Wales Health Collaborative working with the health boards, police, Police Crime Commissioners and in partnership with the specialist third sector. The programme is driving delivery of child/person centred services to ensure the best outcomes for victims of sexual abuse and violence, with the victim voice at the centre. Health boards, police forces, Police and Crime Commissioners, in partnership with the third sector, have agreed a service model for the delivery of sexual assault referral services in South Wales, Dyfed Powys, Gwent and North Wales. The model will provide a more integrated service that is driven by the needs of victims and patients and supports the provision of services that meet clinical, forensic, quality and safety standards and guidance, and ensures robust governance arrangements. Colleagues in the NHS Wales Health Collaborative continue to engage with officials from across the four nations, and there is also ongoing engagement with the team at The Lighthouse.

At the same time, the Welsh Government is funding [Traumatic Stress Wales](#) (£1.2million annually) with the aim to improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages living in Wales at risk of developing or with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD).

The initiative covers children, young people and adults, and is co-produced, co-owned and co-delivered by all relevant stakeholders, including people with lived experience of PTSD and CPTSD. A key focus of their work is to improve access to effective and evidence-based therapies for people who have experienced traumatic events – supported through research and quality improvement work to address gaps in knowledge, capacity and capability – and to improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages living in Wales at risk of developing or with PTSD or CPTSD. Education and training, research and development, clinical audit and improvement methodology are being used to drive a continuously learning and increasingly effective system.

Traumatic Stress Wales have a number of different workstreams, focussing on sexual assault, criminal justice, forced migrants, perinatal, adults, young people, and assessment and outcomes.

The Sexual Assault Workstream is an all-Wales group, comprised of people who provide and work within Sexual Assault Referral Centres, along with other services that provide care and support to people who have experienced sexual trauma. The aim of the group is to develop effective trauma care pathways across all health and third sector providers, that are joined up and integrated across services. They are doing this by working in partnership across health services, voluntary organisations and statutory services. They are developing competency frameworks that will support training initiatives for frontline staff as well as for the delivery of trauma therapies. The chair of the Sexual Assault workstream is also the lead for the Welsh Sexual Assault Services programme in the NHS Wales Health Collaborative.

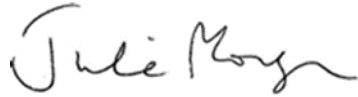
Other developments in Wales include the recent publication of the new [Trauma-Informed Wales Framework](#) developed by Traumatic Stress Wales and the ACEs Support Hub. This all-society Framework aims to support a coherent, consistent approach to developing and implementing trauma-informed practice across Wales, providing the best possible support to those who need it most.

Welsh Government is currently working with Traumatic Stress Wales and the ACE Support Hub to develop an implementation plan for the framework. This will consider what further work is required to support roll out of the framework, and this could include additional work

with services which support those who are victims of child sexual abuse to work in a trauma-informed way.

I hope that the Committee is assured that the work set out above is clearly directed at creating a system where children who are sexually abused can get the right support, in the right place and at the right time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan', written in a cursive style.

**Julie Morgan AS/MS**  
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