



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/06674/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair - Petitions committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 June 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May about the petition you have received about disabled children in crisis.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support and carers who need support. Under the Act each local authority has a duty to assess an individual's need for care and support and to meet those needs deemed eligible through a care and support plan. The codes of practice that accompany the Act are clear that the purpose of the assessment is to understand the individual's needs, capacity, resources and the outcomes they wish to achieve. The assessment will identify how best they can be supported to achieve their needs, including how family and community can help achieve their desired outcomes.

In addition, through the ASD Strategic Action Plan, the Welsh Government is delivering a programme of autism service reform. This includes investing £2m per year in improvements to children's neurodevelopmental services. We have rolled out the National Integrated Autism Service (IAS) which is now open in all parts of Wales. This service can provide advice and support for parents and carers although it does not work directly with children. We also support the National Autism Team to provide expert advice for both professionals and for autistic people. The resources they provide can be found on their website [www.asdinfowales.gov.uk](http://www.asdinfowales.gov.uk) where contact details for local IAS' can also be found.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

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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.

We recently consulted on our plans for a statutory code of practice on the delivery of autism services, which will place duties and obligations on health boards and local authorities to adapt their services to meet the needs of autistic people. This will include providing care and support services which also address co-existing conditions such as autism and learning disabilities. We will publish the draft code for consultation at the end of this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Gething".

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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