Dear Colleague,

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21

Each year the National Assembly for Wales’s Children, Young People and Education Committee scrutinises the Welsh Government on its Draft Budget.

As part of our scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2020-21, one of the areas on which we will focus will be funding for the emotional and mental health of children and young people in Wales.

To inform our scrutiny of the Welsh Government, we would be grateful to receive written information in relation to the points listed in the annex to this letter from your Health Board. We request that this information is received by Monday 7 October 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Annex

Health Board spend/ allocations

To assist the Committee with its ongoing scrutiny of the Welsh Government in relation to children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being we would welcome the following:

- Information on individual Health Board spending on mental health services for children and young people in Wales for each of the last five years, including what percentage of the total LHB budget this represents, and in cash terms, how this compares to the level of spending on adult mental health services. Also, what the spend on mental health services for children and young people is per child for each individual Health Board.

- Information on individual Health Board spending in each of the following services in relation to mental health services for children and young people, including expenditure for each of the last five years (both out-turns and future predicted spend) on:
  - Neurodevelopmental services
  - CAMHS crisis and out of hours care
  - Psychological therapies
  - Local Primary Mental Health Support Services (LPMHSS)
  - Inpatient provision/ service development

- Information on individual Health Board spending and provision of low level children’s mental health services; the funding challenges for Health Boards in terms of focusing on prevention and how these are being overcome through service innovation; and details of any transformation, and/or other additional funding, the Health Board has secured in relation to the provision of low level children mental health services.

- Any specific issues within individual Health Boards in relation to poor staff recruitment and retention that has an impact on spending on mental health services for children and young people, specifically, for each of the last five years, actual expenditure on agency staff (both the out-turns and predicted spend for 2020-21).

- Any specific comments individual Health Boards would like to make about how recurrent funding for mental health services for children and young people, as well as additional CAMHS improvement funding is allocated to Health Boards and how spend is tracked by Welsh Government, including details how Health Boards can evidence this funding is being used to drive forward improvements in mental health services for children and young people.
  - For individual Health Boards, details of the waiting times performance for first appointment and the start of treatment
  - For individual Health Boards, details of the demand for mental health services for children and young people, and the number and percentage of referrals accepted into treatment.