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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1078  
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/00860/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

Dear Janet,

12 March 2021

Thank you for your letter of 27 November concerning petition P-05-1078 on funding for mental health services. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding. We have received an incredibly large volume of letters and emails and are trying to respond to all of them but this takes time.

Protecting Mental Health Services in 2021-22 remains one of our top priorities. Recognising the impact that the pandemic has had on many people's mental health and wellbeing, we have announced over £42m of additional funding to support Mental Health services in 21-22.

Please be assured that we are closely monitoring the impact of the pandemic on people's health and wellbeing and are working with partners to provide immediate additional support to respond to people's changing mental health needs. We recently re-issued our [Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022](#) that was revised in light of the pandemic. This plan outlines our priority areas for action over this period and includes improving access and range of psychological therapies available.

We continue to work closely with health boards, the voluntary sector and other partners to understand the changing mental health needs as a result of the pandemic. Through this, we know that levels of anxiety have increased with the restrictions during the periods of lockdown and as a response to the wider impacts of the pandemic, for instance on employment and finances.

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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.

Responding to the wider socio-economic impact requires a cross-Government and multi-agency approach -this is not something that the NHS or even the health and social care sectors can do alone. Therefore, we are clear that action to support the nation's mental health through this period requires preventative, protective cross government action as well as ensuring we have appropriate mental health services in place to meet people's needs.

From a government perspective, we have responded to changing mental health needs through three clear work streams:

- Maintaining mental health services as 'essential' and responding to immediate mental health needs;
- Working across Welsh Government to reduce the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic on mental health and well-being and strengthening protective actions; and,
- Supporting health boards to meet the changing health needs through the pandemic and in the longer-term recovery of mental health services.

We have further invested nearly £10 million for mental health services this year. This in addition to the £7million planned investment for mental health service improvements made at the beginning of the year.

This £10m investment includes an additional £2.7m to provide immediate access to a range of low level mental health support in response to the higher levels of anxiety. With the Minister for Education, we have also provided a further £5m to the support the Whole School Approach so that we can support our children and young people through this period.

The planned £7million mental health service improvement funding was released in two phases (£3.5m each) – phase one to provide immediate support to enable services to respond to needs during the pandemic; and phase two, to support the priority areas in the [Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022](#). The delivery plan outlines a number of priority areas that we will focus on, include improving crisis response and developing the workforce that you reference within your letter. This plan has recently been re-issued to reflect those actions that have needed to be accelerated due to the pandemic and to set out new actions to respond to the wider socio-economic impacts.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

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