

Jayne Bryant MS

Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

John Griffiths MS

Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

06 June 2022

Dear Jayne, Jenny and John

Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into mental health inequalities

Further to my [letter of 5 April 2022](#), I am writing to provide a further update on the Health and Social Care Committee's [inquiry into mental health inequalities](#).

I enclose in confidence for your information copies of the Senedd Research briefings prepared for our recent oral evidence sessions on 4 May, 19 May and 8 June. Copies of further briefings will be shared in due course.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into mental health inequalities: update

Background

The Health and Social Care Committee launched an inquiry into mental health inequalities in January 2022. The terms of reference were very broad, seeking to identify which groups were most likely to experience mental health inequalities, what barriers they face, whether Welsh Government policy does enough to recognise and address these groups' needs, and what more needs to be done. Drawing on the evidence we received in [writing](#), through [focus groups](#) and during initial [oral evidence sessions](#), in March 2022 we decided to focus on four emerging themes (see below).

Further evidence gathering

The table below outlines the emerging themes, and summarises how we will gather additional evidence to supplement our initial evidence base, while making sure that we hear from people with professional and lived expertise and experience of the matters we are considering.

Theme	Evidence gathering
Mental health and society	Oral evidence on 4 May 2022 from: Centre for Mental Health and Society at Bangor University; Plattform; and Psychologists for Social Change.
Community solutions	Oral evidence on 19 May 2022 from: Wales School for Social Prescribing Research; Public Health Wales; Leonard Cheshire; Mind Cymru; and Professor Sir Sam Everington, pioneer of social prescribing. Committee visit (details tbc).
The impact of mental health inequalities on people with neurodiverse conditions	Informal private stakeholder event on the experience of mental health inequalities of people with neurodiverse conditions and their families or carers. Oral evidence on 8 June 2022 from: Professor Amanda Kirby, Chair of the ADHD Foundation; and Professor Anita Thapar, Division of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences, Cardiff University.
The role of the healthcare and wider workforce	Oral evidence on 6 July 2022 from: Royal College of GPs; Royal College of Nursing Wales; Royal College of Psychiatrists; British Psychological Society (tbc); and British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. Informal engagement with workforce (details tbc).

All of the evidence we gather throughout the inquiry, including the written update we will seek jointly with the CYPE Committee on progress made on key recommendations made by Fifth Senedd committees in respect of mental health, will inform an oral evidence session with the Welsh Government to be held in the autumn term.

As previously outlined, we are working with partner organisations to establish an online advisory group. The group will be asked to provide its views on emerging issues at key milestones in the inquiry.

As the Welsh Youth Parliament has identified 'Our mental health and wellbeing' as one of its priorities, we are also continuing to look for opportunities to work with WYPMs as they develop their approach to their work.