

Dr Tracey Cooper  
Chief Executive  
Public Health Wales

24 May 2022

Dear Tracey

Follow up questions after evidence session on 19 May 2022 on mental health inequalities

Thank you for attending our meeting on Thursday 19 May 2022 and responding to our questions. Following the session, Members agreed to write to you with a number of follow up questions, as outlined in the annex to this letter.

We would be grateful for a response by **Friday 24 June 2022**.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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

## **Annex: follow up questions after evidence session on 19 May 2022**

Following the [evidence session with Public Health Wales](#) on 19 May 2022 as part of our inquiry into [mental health inequalities](#), we would welcome further information on the matters listed below. We would be grateful to receive your response by **Friday 24 June 2022**.

### Resources

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During the evidence session we discussed with you a public health approach to improving mental health and wellbeing and tackling mental health inequalities, including the role of prevention. You agreed that progress needed to be made on delivering prevention and early intervention across all policies and public sector decision-making.

1. Are sufficient resources (financial and staffing) available within Public Health Wales and across the health and social care and wider public sector to deliver the public health approach needed to improve population mental health?
2. Where should additional resource be targeted in order to most effectively tackle mental health inequalities?

### Barriers to social prescribing

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We heard from the Wales School for Social Prescribing Research (WSSPR) that there is evidence that social prescribing can be an effective tool for preventing and treating mental ill health, but that its use can be affected by barriers such as short term funding, inconsistent access to technology and incompatible ICT systems, and variation in GP buy-in and trust.

3. What further action is needed, and by whom/where, to develop effective, sustainable social prescribing approaches in all parts of Wales? What will Public Health Wales' role be in this?