



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/08117/19

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

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

4 November 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 14 October regarding Petition P-05-902 Paternal Mental Health (New Fathers Mental Health) from Mark Williams.

We remain committed to improving perinatal mental health services and it is a proposed priority area for action within the new Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022 which will be published later this year. The work that is being led by the National Clinical Lead for Perinatal Mental Health towards developing a perinatal pathway will form part of the final Delivery Plan. I recognise the Committee's concerns that this pathway will need to take account of mothers and their partners which I can confirm will be considered as part of the pathway development work.

As stated previously all health boards are expected to work towards meeting agreed standards for integrated perinatal health services in Wales by March 2020. These standards include considering the mental health and well-being of fathers/partners.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

In Wales, we have also implemented the Mental Health (Wales) Measure which provides services at an early stage through the Local Primary Mental Health Support Service, as well as ensuring those in need of specialist services receive the highest quality of care and treatment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'V'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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