



26th January 2016 Date Dyddiad
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Your Ref Eich Cyf
Our Ref Ein Cyf

Mr Andrew Davies
Chairman
ABMU Health Board
One Talbot Gateway
Baglan Energy Park
Port Talbot
SA12 7BR

Dear Mr Davies,

Neath Port Talbot Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee requested that representatives from the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) attended a scrutiny meeting as they have had concerns about the service in the area and wanted to know what progress was being made.

Dr Claire Ball and Sian Harrop-Griffiths attended a meeting on 22nd October 2015 and presented a report, which provided an update on the arrangements for the planning and provision of services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs in the ABMU Health Board area.

The Committee were pleased to have the opportunity to ask questions about the service in the Neath Port Talbot area and raise concerns that they had. However, the Committee felt that they did not receive answers to all the questions that they raised and there appeared to be some conflicting information. On behalf of the Committee I am requesting a written response from you to the questions attached to this letter. Please could a response be sent by Friday 19th February 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Alan Lockyer
Chairperson
Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

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yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg



Questions:

1. How many CAMHS workers are solely allocated to the ABMU Health Board and in particular the Neath Port Talbot area?
2. How many clinical hours are available to Neath Port Talbot children and young people?
3. How many clinical hours are used by Neath Port Talbot children and young people?
4. Are there primary care workers who can undertake home visits to ascertain the need for CAMHS?
5. Concern was raised that at the time there was up to 53 weeks waiting lists. Early intervention and prevention is important and waiting over a year for an appointment was not early intervention. How can this be improved?
6. Money has been identified to tackle waiting lists and the Committee were informed that the plan was to recruit more staff. Members were disappointed that it would take up to April 2016 for a full service to be developed. Please confirm if the posts have been recruited and can assurances be given that the waiting lists will be reduced?
7. It was recognised that the Welsh Government launch of Together for Children and Young People in February 2015 and the additional funding associated with it presented an opportunity to develop CAMHS services. However, the Committee have concerns that there is not a clear idea of the level of activity currently undertaken, a needs analysis has not been undertaken and that the commissioning of services will be based on historic arrangements that have evolved rather than need. It is an unusual concept to contract services on the basis of asking service deliverers what they would like to do with the money rather than outlining what services are required. Please could this position be clarified and explained?

8. The Committee would like data on past performance and how this will feed into future plans, including levels of provision and outcomes.
9. It was highlighted that the current proposed funding allocation for training from Welsh Government was £6k per health board and this was not thought to be adequate so further representation was being made. Please could it be confirmed that this is the final amount allocated per health board for training?
10. The proposed service model does not have any operational indicators, such as the number of professionals and the ratio to children and young people requiring a service. It was explained that such specifications should be in the contract details. Please could it be confirmed that operation indicators will be included in contract development?