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Dear Bethan

Thank you for your e-mail regarding my commission from the Health and Social Services Minister.

First, let me clarify my role as there appears to have been some confusion, I am not reviewing CAMHS on behalf of Welsh Government, I have agreed with Welsh Government that I will support and provide external independent advice for CAMHS in Wales. The aim is to ensure long-term sustainability by facilitating the instigation of service change and to embed a cultural and organisational change within CAMHS to make it fit for the future.

Due to my other commitments, I agreed a limited amount of time within Wales to develop this work, it is therefore important that, the focus should be on considering the strategic nature of how specialist CAMHS functions for all conditions. This will include how CAMHS interacts with other mental health services; how it works with wider NHS provision, such as paediatrics; and its interaction with other agencies, working in the field, such as schools counselling. The intention is to have in place pathways so that young people experiencing the range of emotional wellbeing and mental ill health, have their needs met in a timely manner, by the most appropriate body, and with support of specialist CAMHS, when this is required. This work will be in line with the Minister's priorities for prudent healthcare.

Welsh Government has asked I act as an independent, external scrutiny for CAMHS services, rather than having my terms of reference set from the outset. The process has to be driven by CAMHS in Wales and its partners, and I am still in the process of scoping out the issues which will need to be considered by CAMHS and stakeholders. In terms of timelines and consultation, what we are seeking to achieve is a generational shift in current practice, the full impacts of which may not be fully evident for some years. However, Welsh Government has asked that we have some clarity of direction of travel by the end of 2015, depending on what form this takes there will probably be a need for some more formal consultation as this work develops. As you are aware, the process is being formally launched by the Minister at a conference for CAMHS and key stakeholders on 26 February and there will also be a need for less formal discussion and consultation with stakeholders throughout 2015.

I am being aided in my work by Carol Shillabeer, the Chair of the all-Wales CAMHS and Eating Disorder Planning Network and Sian Richards, current Mental Health Strategy Lead for Welsh

Government; so perhaps if the Cross Party Group would like to meet and feed your views into the process, I could ask them to meet with you and gather your evidence to inform the process.

Clearly I will need to keep the Minister informed of progress, which will include the interest of AMs and others. I am, therefore, copying this correspondence to his policy lead.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Professor Dame Sue Bailey
Chair

Cc Jason Pollard
Cc Sian Richards
Cc Carol Shillabeer