

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/LG/6862/11

Mark Drakeford AM  
Chair of the Health and Social  
Care Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

30<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of the 12 October regarding the referral to the Health and Social Care Committee of the Wales Audit Office follow up report on Adult Mental Health Services.

Your letter sought details of the implementation plan for the Mental Health Measure, and our timetable for developing a new mental health strategy for Wales.

#### Mental Health Measure Implementation Plan

Mental Health is one of the cornerstones of the health services that we provide for the people of Wales. It is particularly important that the needs of those with the most severe and enduring mental illnesses are prioritised. The Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 is introducing some significant changes and we are allowing sufficient preparation time to ensure that implementation is achieved successfully. The timescales for commencement are designed to ensure that Local Health Boards and Local Authorities are able to effectively plan and prepare to meet the duties which will fall to them under the new legislation.

It is anticipated that the Measure provisions will be commenced as follows:

- January 2012 - expansion of advocacy to short-term sections (Part 4)
- April 2012 - expansion of advocacy to informal patients (Part 4)
- June 2012 - care coordination and planning (Part 2)
- June 2012 - entitlement to assessment (Part 3)
- October 2012 - local primary mental health support services (Part 1)

To support implementation my officials have developed a secondary legislation delivery plan (attached at annex 1) and a programme of support to Local Health Boards and local authorities:

The programme of support for Local Health Boards and local authorities includes:

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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- The publication of a National Service Model for Part 1 of the Measure in September 2011, aimed at ensuring consistent and high-quality primary care mental health support services across Wales;
- Publishing national and local mapping reports, identifying existing primary mental health services across Wales in January 2012, to help support services to understand where remodelling and restructuring of services in relation to Part 1 will be beneficial;
- Developing and publishing guidance on agreeing schemes under Part 1 of the Measure (technical advice on the written compact between LHBs and local authorities) in December 2011;
- The development and dissemination of learning resources for a values-based and patient-centred approach to effective care coordination and care and treatment planning for national roll out from January 2012 onwards;
- Support for mental health advocacy by way of a range of seminars and conferences focusing on independence, financial integrity and strong governance;
- Pre-implementation funding to support local work, as well as recurrent funding to deliver the new services under the Measure.


Officials also have a programme of regular and ongoing engagement with the NHS and local authorities. This includes promotion of the legislative programme, to improve stakeholder engagement and understanding of the Measure.

#### Timetable and details of the new Mental Health Strategy

I am happy to confirm that the Welsh Government is now beginning work on the development of a new Mental Health Strategy for Wales. Our plan is to develop a consolidating strategic document covering adults, children and adolescents. Our aim in doing so will be to develop a unified approach to mental health and thereby reduce the complications of transition as people age, and require intervention from different parts of the system.

The new strategic document will aim to build on the progress made in adults and CAMHS services in recent years, including those resulting from the new Measure and the work of the Mental Health National Programme. In preparing the document, we will be taking full account of the issues raised in recent Wales Audit Office reports.

A cross-departmental strategy steering group is currently being established and a series of pre-drafting consultation events will be arranged with stakeholders, service users and carers before Christmas. Our aim is produce a draft strategy for consultation by next spring.

Kind Regards  


**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

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

Cc  
 Chair of the Young People's Committee

## Annex 1: Subordinate Legislation relating to the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010

Title	Purpose	Timescale
The Mental Health (Care Coordination and Care and Treatment Planning) (Wales) Regulations 2011	Made under Part 2 of the Measure, these regulations relate to the appointment of care coordinators and the making, reviewing and revising of care and treatment plans.	The regulations were consulted on between February and May 2011, and will be laid before the Assembly for debate in November 2011.
The Mental Health (Assessment of Former Users of Secondary Mental Health Services) (Wales) Regulations 2011	Made under Part 3 of the Measure, these regulations set out certain eligibility criteria for assessment of former users of secondary mental health services. For example, the length of time a person will be eligible for such an assessment following their discharge from services.	The regulations were consulted on between February and May 2011 and made by the National Assembly in October
The Mental Health (Independent Mental Health Advocates) (Wales) Regulations 2011	Made under Part 4 of the measure, these regulations relate to the provision, appointment and approval of advocates and set out which people advocates can talk to in undertaking their role of supporting patients.	The regulations were consulted on between February and May 2011 and made by the National Assembly in October 2011.
The Mental Health (Regional Provision) (Wales) Regulations 2012	Made under Parts 1 and 3 of the Measure, these regulations will enable local authorities and local health boards to deliver local primary mental health support services under Part 1 of the Measure, and make arrangements for provision of assessments for former users of secondary mental health services under Part 3 of the Measure on a regional, rather than local authority-wide, basis.	These regulations are currently being consulted on. The consultation process will end in December 2011, and it is anticipated that the regulations will be laid before the National Assembly for approval in March 2012
<b>The Mental Health (Primary Care Referrals and Eligibility to Conduct Primary Mental Health Assessments) (Wales) Regulations 2012</b>	Made under Part 1 of the Measure, these regulations will enable GPs to refer individuals not registered with them to the relevant local primary mental health support services for assessment, where they believe that individual may stand in need of such services. Separately, these draft Regulations also set out eligibility requirements, including professional requirements, in relation to persons who may undertake primary mental health assessments under Part 1 of the Mental health (Wales) Measure 2010	These regulations will be issued for consultation from November 2011 – January 2012. It is anticipated that the regulations will be laid before the National Assembly for approval in May 2012.
<b>The Mental Health (Secondary Mental Health Services) (Wales) Order 2012</b>	Made in relation to Parts 1 and 2 of the Measure, this order will provide clarity to local authorities and local health boards regarding which services are to be considered as secondary mental health services for	This order will be issued for consultation from November 2011 – January 2012. It is anticipated that the regulations will be laid before the National Assembly for approval in May 2012.