



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05621/19

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

12 March 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 21 February regarding Petition P-05-857 *Creating National Task Force for Children's Mental Health from the National Organisation for Children's Mental Health* I note the additional commentary that you have provided and your intention to write to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee in order to make them aware of this petition within the context of their work.

As you are aware, the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on the Whole School Approach brings together the key strategic stakeholders from across education, health, the wider public and third sectors. A detailed programme of work has been developed and we are now considering how best to take this forward and the resource implications over the life of the Task and Finish Group, which is expected to conclude in Spring 2021.

The Ministerial Task and Finish Group is supported by a stakeholder reference group to ensure the broad range of agencies with a role in delivering a whole school approach have a meaningful engagement in this programme and a Youth Stakeholder Group to ensure that children and young people also have the opportunity to directly feed in their views as activity progresses.

I should also point out that the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on the Whole School Approach does not exist in isolation, and sits within broader arrangements which oversee, develop and assure approaches to improve the mental health and well-being of children. For instance the Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group continues to deliver a 3 year change programme (2017-2020) and to advise on the additional targeted support that is required across Government to deliver improved outcomes for care experienced children and young people. In addition, the NHS Wales Mental Health Network was established in 2018 to drive, facilitate and enable transformational change and sustained improvement for NHS commissioned and/or delivered mental health services. The Mental Health Network balances short-term priority areas of work needing regional or all Wales solutions and the long-term commitments to transform services.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre  
0300 0604400

[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

Following consideration of the additional information provided, I remain assured the groups already in place will enable us to move this agenda forward at pace, knitting the various strands of activity together; highlighting gaps in provision; and ensuring energy and resources are targeted to have the maximum benefit.

Our formal update on progress to the CYPE Committee on activity across this area and our response to the wider Mind Over Matter report will be available in the next few weeks.

Thank you for continuing to share the information you have received.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughan Gething'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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