



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

Your ref/eich cyf:
Our ref/ein cyf: SL.DD.
Date/dyddiad: 20th August 2019.
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Glyn Jones
Director of Finance & Performance/Deputy CE
Aneurin Bevan UHB

Dear Glyn

Re: Provision for Children who require Specialist Mental Health Inpatient Care

Thank you for your letter dated 1st August 2019 re the above.

We also recognise the increasing challenge of this very vulnerable group of children with complex needs and the WHSS Team are undertaking a number of actions to address this which I shall describe below. It may however be helpful before I do that to mention the wider context within which this change is occurring. There is of course the very welcome and significant reduction of around 70% in the last 10 years of children in the secure estate across the UK and an 86% reduction in those in the criminal justice system. This means that the needs of the cohort of children being managed in community settings within Wales will have changed.

Wales does not have, and has never had, secure NHS CAMHS inpatient beds and we have accessed services via the NHS Wales Framework and where necessary accessed off- framework beds. Currently there is a waiting list for CAMHS Low Secure beds across the UK. This is often because of patient safety and quality issues due to workforce challenges in this difficult-to-recruit-to service.

The waiting list has been the cause of an extended stay at Ty Cyfannol for one young person. During the course of the delay, WHSSC staff liaised closely with the Aneurin Bevan Crisis Outreach Team in relation to bed availability and attended a multi-professional meeting to ensure that all possible commissioning actions were being taken in response to this challenging situation. Following discussions with the Quality Assurance Improvement Service (QAIS) and a case meeting we have been able to secure an appropriate placement for this young person at an Independent Low Secure Unit in Wales.

The WHSS Team recognise the challenges and risks created by this shortage and are undertaking the following steps to improve access to secure accommodation:

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Chair/Cadeirydd: *Professor Vivienne Harpwood*
Managing Director of Specialised and Tertiary Services Commissioning/Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr
Comisiynu Gwasanaethau Arbenigol a Thrydyddol: *Dr Sian Lewis*

1. The WHSS Team met with NHS England (NHSE) at a strategic review meeting on the 31st of July and there are ongoing discussions with NHSE to explore continued access to secure beds in England. In the short term WHSSC has also asked the Quality Assurance & Improvement Service (QAIS) who oversee the NHS Wales CAMHS Framework to review urgently the status of Regis Healthcare. It is hoped Regis will be in a position to re-join framework in April 2020 but this is dependent on significant quality and patient safety improvements.
2. The NHS Wales CAMHS framework is currently under review by the NCCU and they intend to look at alternative options such as the use of preferred providers as a way of potentially increasing access. The new framework will be launched in April 2020.
3. A strategic review of the role and remit of the Forensic Adolescent Consultation and Treatment Services (FACTS) in Wales, looking at the boundaries/interfaces between health and youth justice systems, is underway and a stakeholder workshop is being held November 2019. The intention is that this will strengthen cross sector working and ensure children can be most appropriately placed according to their needs with health or social care input as necessary. As mentioned above there have been significant changes to number of children currently placed in the prison service and secure estate.
4. In July 2019 a meeting between the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Welsh Government (WG) and other stakeholders resulted in WG funding for a project lead to scope out the number of children with complex needs who are difficult to place and the issues relating to their care in particular the interface between social care and health including opportunities for closer working with Assistant Directors for Social Services. This overlaps with the FACTS work described above.

With regards your query regarding the risk assessments that were undertaken prior to the modification of the admission criteria, including the assessments of risk of young people being placed supported in adult mental health wards as a consequence, we can reassure you that clinical gatekeepers assess each admission and all patients in need to specialist CAMHS in-patient care have received this either at Ty Llidiard or at an Independent provider, and in the majority of cases on the Welsh CAMHS Framework. Last year despite the changes in admission criteria to Ty Llidiard, only 5 patients from South Wales required transfer outside Wales who could previously have been looked after within the NHS in Wales.

The use of age appropriate adult mental health beds for short periods for assessment has been Welsh Government policy since 2011. The intention is this will allow full assessment of needs to be undertaken at the point of crisis and determine if Tier 4 inpatient CAMHS bed is required. The challenge arises when the children have complex needs which do not easily fit into either CAMHS or social care services and a suitable placement cannot be identified.

With regards the admission criteria at Ty Llidiard we have been advised that changes to the physical infrastructure at Ty Llidiard should be completed by the end of the August

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and we have asked QAIS to carry out a service review following this. Alongside this work the WHSSC team have developed a service specification for the current service and a service specification which would allow an extended remit for the service i.e. to admit children with more complex needs. These will be sent for out for consultation later this month. When these are agreed and assuming the QAIS review does not identify any ongoing issues we would hope to widen the admission criteria. I should however make it clear that this may lead to an increase in the staffing requirements of the unit.

I hope this is helpful. Please do not hesitate to get back in touch if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Sian Lewis
Managing Director

cc. Nick Wood, Director of Primary, Community & Mental Health Services
Dr. Chris O'Connor, Divisional Director (MH & LD)
Dr. Dave Williams, Divisional Director (F & T)
Carole Bell, Director of Nursing, WHSSC
Karen Preece, Chair of CAMHS Subgroup, MHNB

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