



To:
Councillor Elliott King
Cabinet Member for Children's Services

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Date 05 December 2018
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Summary: This is a letter from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services following the meeting of the Panel on 21 November 2018. It reflects on the second follow up meeting of the Panel.

Dear Cllr King

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Scrutiny Inquiry Panel met on 21 November to follow up on progress made on the recommendations since the first follow up meeting in November 2017, as not all of the recommendations had been completed. The Panel was looking for accelerated improvements and outcomes before monitoring is concluded.

We would like to thank you, Julie Thomas and Joanne Abbott-Davies, Sian Harrop-Griffiths and Isobel Davey of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) for attending the meeting to present the impact/follow up report, updating on progress and answering questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We would like to make the following comments:

- We heard that the service is driving forward a prevention approach and is working on the offer for those children who do not quite meet the threshold and are falling through the gaps. You are aware of the need for a continuum of support and the need to see over time if it is making a difference. There is a need to look at how this can be monitored.
- We heard from ABMU that they feel they and the three local authorities are now working together better and are having conversations about how they can change things. This is good news.

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- We heard that as a result of recommendations from scrutiny ABMU have changed some of their commissioning arrangements. We were very pleased to hear this.
- We were also pleased to hear that the target for CAMHS urgent cases being seen in 24 hours is 100% and ABMU is hitting this
- We were given an explanation of how the Choice and Partnership Approach works and were informed that this initiative deals with some of the issues raised by the Panel
- The Panel expressed concern about the annual Integrated Care Fund which comes from Welsh Government to regional partnership boards. We heard that confirmation hasn't been received of what the new allocation will be when Bridgend leaves ABMU.
- We commented that the Scrutiny Inquiry had identified that people found it difficult to access CAMHS. There were complaints from parents about the forms that had to be completed and that the timeline could be as long as a year. We were informed that the process has been simplified, forms have been reviewed with schools and schools can now speak to a member of the Neurodevelopment Disorders (NDD) team if they have concerns. We were pleased to hear this.
- We also raised the issue that parents only used to be able to get a referral to CAMHS through the school. We heard that a mechanism has now been put in place so that if parents cannot get a referral through the school they can contact the NDD team direct if they think they are being blocked by the school.
- We were pleased to hear that there are now parents and representatives of the Third Sector sitting on all groups. We were informed that a workshop was held on NDD and 30 parents participated. The information gathered from this workshop was used to set up the NDD service.

Following the meeting, the Panel discussed progress and made the following conclusions:

- The Panel feels that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are in a much better place than when the Panel started the Inquiry and we would like to congratulate everyone involved.
- There are now well established arrangements in place to drive improvement forward in this area.
- Progress has been made on most of the recommendations in the action plan. However there is still a long way to go to fully achieve all of the recommendations.
- The Panel has concluded it's monitoring of CAMHS, but monitoring of performance will continue via the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel who are to receive regular progress updates.

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised, and ask that in this instance you provide a written response by Monday 7 January 2019.

Yours sincerely

Mary Jones

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