



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/2639/19

Leanne Woods AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

16 July 2019

Dear Leanne,

I am responding to the concerns you raised during business questions on 9 July regarding the Wales Gender Identity Service which I announced recently.

The Wales Gender Team (WGT) has been commissioned by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) which has responsibility for the joint planning of specialised and tertiary services on behalf of health boards. WHSSC's role is to ensure that specialist services can meet identified need and are both safe and effective. Both WHSSC and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (as host of the WGT) have provided Welsh Government with assurance that they are working towards ensuring that the skill mix of the WGT is appropriate and in line with associated protocols and guidance.

A core team has been appointed including an experienced Gender Clinician who is now leading engagement with stakeholders to ensure that the service meets the needs of our trans community. I expect these engagement sessions to deal specifically with the concerns of stakeholders and to provide assurance regarding the service model, prior to the service starting to see patients. The service will then commence incrementally, to enable it to develop the right balance of support in response to the needs of patients over time.

It is important to understand that the WGT is only one element of the improvements we are making to gender identity services in Wales. The integrated pathway includes Local Gender Teams which have now been established in all health boards and will provide the intermediate level of care including prescribing, initiating and monitoring treatment following an assessment. This level of care will be provided within the individual's own health board area. The service will also include a Directed Enhanced Service to improve support in primary care.

I hope this provides reassurance that we are making the progress necessary to establish a new gender identity service in Wales. I will provide a further update following the engagement sessions with stakeholders and prior to the formal launch of the service.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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