

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ83161

Jack Sargeant MS
Member of the Senedd for Alyn & Deeside

Jack.Sargeant@senedd.wales

22 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your written question on the work the Welsh Government is doing with the police to understand what is happening on the ground when someone experiences a mental health crisis.

We continue to work collaboratively with the police and other partners to improve care for people in mental health crisis or distress through the Mental Health Crisis Care Assurance Group (CAG). The CAG includes regional partnership arrangements responsible for the implementation of local crisis care plans. These groups include the four police forces in Wales.

The Welsh Government has also worked alongside the police as well as the health board, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust, Local Authorities and third sector on the Mental Health Urgent Access Review. The Review, which was led by the NHS National Commissioning Unit, aimed to understand the needs of individuals who call the emergency services when in mental health crisis or distress. Data from over 10,000 calls was reviewed and analysis showed the breadth of social and welfare needs that often cause mental health distress and need a multi-agency response.

As a result of the Review, we are establishing single points of contact - using NHS 111- to connect people with mental health practitioners for triage and to ensure referral into appropriate support. The single points of contact are the first step in developing a multi-agency pathway to respond to people in crisis or distress.

The Welsh Government has also provided additional funding to test a mental health conveyance pilot, led by St John Cymru. The pilot aims to reduce the time people with mental health needs wait for transportation to appropriate support and reduce the need for conveyance by a police vehicle.

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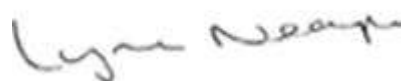
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 "Lynne Neagle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

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Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing