

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
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Dear Paul,

During Plenary on the 16 November you raised a query regarding support the Welsh Government is offering to Hywel Dda University Health Board to help reduce waiting times for an autism assessment and the assistance available for children and their families who are waiting for an assessment.

I would like to update you on the progress that we are making to improve neurodivergence (ND) services in Wales. In March this year an independent demand and capacity review of all ND services was completed, which has now been [published](#). The review identified evidence of good practice and concerning gaps in provision, concluding that no action was not an option.

In response on the 6 July in a [written statement](#), I announced additional funding of £12m over the next three years, which I am making available to support an improvement programme addressing key priorities identified in the review and expanding our focus on autism to also include other neurodevelopmental conditions, initially ADHD and Tourettes Syndrome. These priorities will be addressed through three workstreams.

Workstream One will be taking immediate action to provide additional support to reduce some of the here-and-now pressures on assessment services, and to quickly put in place much needed support for parents and families.

Workstream Two will co-produce and test models to reform neurodivergence services so they meet identified needs and are sustainable in the long term. This will include support for those co-existing conditions or those that do not meet diagnostic thresholds but need support.

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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.

Workstream Three will develop important cross-cutting priorities, including developing a workforce strategy, improved data collection and monitoring and making the best use of digital opportunities to support services in the future.

In the first year our immediate focus is on sustaining existing services, in particular increasing access to and improving waiting times for diagnostic assessment and support and developing more support for families. I have made £1.4m available to the Regional Partnership Boards for 2022-23 to reduce some of the pressures experienced in these services for both children and adults. Hywel Dda University Health Board has received its share of this funding to the value of £177,044.

To advise on the delivery of our reforms, we held the first meeting of the Neurodivergence Ministerial Advisory Group on the 29 September. This group includes representatives from a cross section of policy, service and delivery areas as well as neurodivergent people, their families and carers from across Wales. Three of the co-chairs of the group are individuals with lived experience. This group will provide me with with the direction, implementation and evaluation of neurodivergent services.

Throughout November my officials are also undertaking a series engagement events across Wales and online, to seek feedback and involvement in delivering our aims. We are also establishing a stakeholder group to ensure continued involvement in developing person centred services. We will publish a summary of the outcomes of these events.

I want to re-assure you that we are working hard to achieve an improved neurodivergent services for all.

Yours sincerely



Julie Morgan AS/MS

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