

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peter Black AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

1 December 2014

Dear Peter,

I am writing further to your question to the First Minister during plenary on 18 November, where, in the context of recent developments regarding the provision of services to Claire Dyer, you suggested that there are no low secure or medium secure in-patient specialist autism services in south Wales and very little in the way of non-secure hospital provision.

I can assure you that there are four secure units in Wales that take women patients with autism. However, some patients have such specialist needs that there are occasions when LHBs cannot meet these locally, or even within Wales. In such rare cases, health boards may refer patients out of area or across the border to England for the most appropriate care, but should aim to bring them home as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. In Claire Dyer's case, at the time that Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB was seeking a secure placement for her, none of the inpatient facilities in Wales were deemed suitable, or had available space to meet her particular requirements.

I am sure that, like me, you were pleased to learn of Claire's discharge and return to the family home last month.

You also stated on 18 November that there is no consultant specialising in autism in south Wales, and asked what Welsh Government was doing to provide specialised autism community services. In response to these points; since 2011 we have supported the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Adults Diagnostic Pre/Post Counselling Network across Wales. The Network includes consultant psychiatrists and other practitioners supporting people with autism in Wales. The network has developed and delivered training for clinicians and improved access to autism diagnostic and counselling services across health boards. Early next year we will be establishing a diagnostic task and finish group to focus on improvements in diagnostic services for both children and adults.

I trust that this response provides you with the assurances that you were seeking regarding the provision of autism services, both in the community and in-patient settings for Welsh patients.

Best wishes

Mark

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper