

**P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 27.03.14.**

Dear Stephen

Thank you for the conversation that we had this morning regarding the petition that was heard in October last year.

As it stands at the moment, I believe that the petition committee has decided to let the matter lie for a year, as of November 2013. I would very much like to bring this forward if at all possible, and wondered if you might take this thought to the petitions committee?

Further to, and in addition to our email exchange in December 2013, it might be prudent to add some developments to my plea.

On 18th March 2014 during question time to the First Minister, the matter of CAMHS provision both from a staffing perspective, as well as a financial lack was raised by Kirsty Williams AM, leader of Liberal Democrat party.

I would echo her concerns regarding the lack of staffing and shortcomings in the CAMHS services, but more importantly I would like clarification of the 'quarter of a million pound provision recently given by the Health Minister' that was alluded to by both herself and then the First Minister in his response.

When I attended, and presented to the committee in October, Mark Drakeford had promised £250,000 for CAMHS Eating Disorder Services in South Wales just the day before.

Has this now been extended to provision within CAMHS as a general area, or is it still safeguarded for CAMHS Eating Disorder Services?

I would also like to remind the petition committee that the original petition was for equal, if not more financial provision to that given to Adult Eating Disorder Services across Wales. As yet this has not been provided. I still stand by the fact that early intervention in eating disorders is paramount to a good recovery and prognosis; a fact backed up by countless research papers. Eating Disorders (especially Anorexia Nervosa) remains the highest mortality rate of any mental health diagnosis. Eating Disorders, especially Anorexia Nervosa, are generally first found/diagnosed around puberty adding to the urgency of my appeal.

The North-South divide within Wales was never clearer than on the 8th October 2013 when Mark Drakeford failed in the provision of equal funding across Wales. This is given for Adult Eating Disorder Services equally across Wales on a yearly

basis. Children across Wales with Eating Disorders are being failed by the services provided. I am concerned that without a tragedy, nothing will be done.

The longer an eating disorder is left without specialised intervention, the longer the time to recovery. The longer the time to recovery, the more it costs the Minister for Health in caring for these patients.

His triumphant statement for providing a state of the art facility for children with eating disorders to be repatriated from England, will be full and overflowing before it is built!

To provide assistance prior to inpatient care is financially more viable. Whilst I agree there should be an inpatient provider for the critically ill, I would love to see those funds being channelled into early intervention provided by specialist teams, as is in place for adult services.

Thank you once again for your continued support in this matter. I look forward to the petition committee supporting me by adding pressure over this matter to Mark Drakeford.

(I am not a politician, and have no place in giving my thoughts; however at an educated guess I feel it would take a brave person or indeed party, to charge even a fraction of England's prescription fee to provide the funds so badly needed across Wales, perhaps this would be a way forward?)

Yours sincerely

Helen Missen