



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Abigail Harris – Chief Commissioner (Interim), NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

Ian Green – Chair, NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

CC:

Carole Bell – Director of Nursing and Quality Assurance
NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

Krysta Hallewell, NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

David Thomas, Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Team, Welsh Government

Beverley Morgan, Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Team, Welsh Government

Jon Lane, Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Team, Welsh Government

Stuart Hackwell, Senior Medical Officer, Mental Health and Primary Care

Anna Kuczynska, Senior Medical Officer, Mental Health and Primary Care

15 May 2024

Dear Abigail and Ian

Following the publication of the final report from the Cass Review on 10 April 2024, I am writing to thank you and colleagues at the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) for your ongoing role in commissioning gender identity services for people in Wales.

I would also like to thank you for your continued representation on the NHS England Programme Gender Board and associated sub-groups and for publishing the [Joint Commissioning Committee briefing](#) to the Cass Review which sets out anticipated next steps.

As you know, on 1 May 2024, a debate by the Welsh Conservatives took place focussing on the CASS Review, where Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament was asked to:

1. Note the publication of the Cass review.

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.

2. Note that NHS Wales commissions gender identity services for children and young people 17 and under from NHS England.
3. Note that NHS England has concluded there is not enough evidence to support the safety or clinical effectiveness of puberty suppressing hormones for the treatment of gender dysphoria in children and young people at this time.
4. Note the Welsh Government will continue to develop the transgender guidance for schools taking account of the Cass review and stakeholder views.

In light of these developments, I am writing to request formally that the NHS Wales JCC give specific consideration to the findings of final Cass Report. This must include a consideration of its findings in the review of the service specification for the adult gender identity service in Wales, which is planned to commence in 2024.

In addition, one of the recommendations of the Cass Review was to consider how interventions impact on outcomes. For that to happen, there is a need to monitor the long-term impact through tracking into adult gender services. Therefore, I am requesting that in line with this Cass recommendation, the NHS Wales JCC also ensures that gender identity services commissioned by the JCC share relevant data as part of the wider data linkage study referred to in the Cass Review (Recommendation 5). The data should be collected in a consistent and comprehensive manner to support an evidence-based approach to the support and interventions put in place.

We would also request that through the NHS Executive CAMHS Network, the NHS JCC informs health boards about the recommendations of the final Cass report to support the development of local implementation plans.

The Welsh Government also recognises the importance of existing services having the necessary training to support transgender children and young people in Wales, and as such, we are very supportive of the engagement that has taken place between the NHS Wales JCC and Health Education and Improvement Wales on this matter. I look forward to an update on training and workforce developments.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Downton

Deputy Director for Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Vulnerable Groups,
Welsh Government

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