

Lynne Neagle MS

Deputy Minister for Mental Health and
Wellbeing

19 January 2023

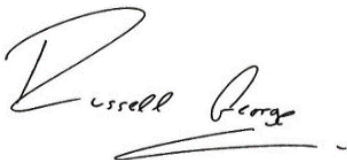
Dear Lynne

Consideration of a national children's counselling service

As you will agree, building positive mental health and wellbeing should begin in early in a child's life, as positive and healthy relationships and connection are vital for their healthy development and their future mental health. For the same reason, where trauma does occur in a child's early years, it is crucial that the right services and mechanisms are in place, and that they work together in a joined up way to support children, young people and their families. This includes school counselling services, whole school and whole families approaches, and CAMHS, as well as the implementation and embedding of the NEST/NYTH framework.

As part of ensuring that the right preventative and intervention services are in place to support children across Wales, we would be grateful if you could indicate whether any consideration has been given to establishing a national children's counselling service to ensure that all children of all ages, including those who are not yet school age, have access to mental health and wellbeing practitioners.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

