

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1479
Ein cyf/Our ref SM/10180/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru

Petitions@senedd.wales

12 November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 October enclosing details of the Stolen Lives, Homes Not Hospitals campaign petition.

I met members of the Stolen Lives campaign and several Senedd members earlier this month to listen to their concerns and to outline the Welsh Government's position on this matter. I also wrote to all Senedd members covering many of the issues covered in this petition on 29 August. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information.

We share the campaign's view that a hospital bed is not a home and wherever possible people with learning disabilities should receive their care at home or as close to home as they can. This is a key priority for us and a specific commitment within the Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026.

We are undertaking a significant amount of work in this area to achieve this objective, working with our stakeholders and partners from the NHS Executive, health boards, local authorities, the third and private sectors under the umbrella of the independent Learning Disability National Implementation and Assurance Group. However, I acknowledge that a lot of this work is being carried out beyond the public's view and we need to ensure people are aware of and can contribute to helping tackle these issues.

We are working with the NHS Executive to improve the capture and analysis of data around the number of adults with a learning disability who are receiving care in an inpatient environment. This work will help us determine how we can best reduce these numbers. We

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Sarah.Murphy@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Sarah.Murphy@gov.wales

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.

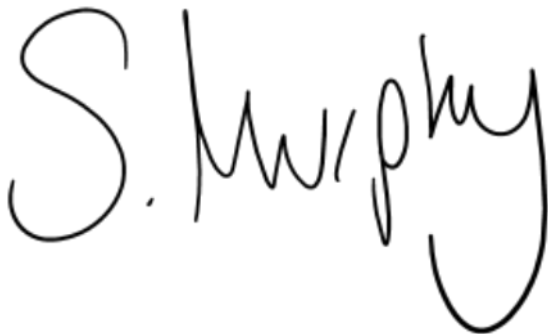
are exploring how we can publish this information as well as starting work on a similar data collection process for children and young people.

I have tasked the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG) with establishing a task and finish group which will work to address the five key concerns raised by the Stolen Lives campaign in its manifesto, aligning this to the work we are already undertaking in this area. Members of the Stolen Lives campaign are key contributors to this task and finish group, which held its inaugural meeting on 15 October.

This is a complex area of work. I have asked the group to provide me with recommendations about how we address these key challenges and barriers by the summer 2025.

I would be happy to share the report and my response with Senedd Members and the committee when it is available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Murphy AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing