

Sarah Murphy MS

Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

13 October 2025

## **Perinatal mental health support**

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for ~~your letter~~ dated 18 September responding to ~~our recent letter~~ expressing our concerns and those of a wide range of third sector organisations about the disbanding of the Perinatal Clinical Implementation Network, and the National Clinical Lead, and replacement with a Community of Practice / Peer Group. We considered this letter at our meeting on 8 October, and agreed to write to seek some further clarity.

In our original letter, we asked five specific questions, which, for ease of reference, I repeat below:

1. We note that this [the disbanding of the Network and Lead] is currently a "proposal". Please can you confirm the status of these proposals, and whether considering is being given to retain the Network and the Clinical Lead Role?
2. What are the reasons for the proposal, and what other options have been explored?
3. Can you also explain why there has not been wider consultation and engagement on the proposals themselves, and clarify whether this will be rectified?
4. If the Network is disbanded, how does the Welsh Government intend to ensure that the inequities which are currently present in the system are reduced and ultimately removed?
5. We would also appreciate an update on when the Mother and Baby Unit in Chester will be open to Welsh families, along with confirmation of the long term status of Uned Gobaith? Finally, when the recommendations from the one year review of Uned Gobaith will be implemented.

Your letter did not make specific reference to the questions we asked, although some of the information did cover some of these areas. For clarity and transparency, we would appreciate if you could reply providing specific responses to each of the questions above.

In particular, we note that your letter did not:

- provide specific reasons for the change in approach, or detail any alternative options which may have been considered;
- outline what consultation or engagement was undertaken on the change in approach;
- provide specific details on how you will ensure that the current inequities are reduced and removed, and provided general performance and assurance measures instead; or
- provide an update on when the recommendations from the one year review of Uned Gobaith will be implemented.

As we note in our original letter, we share the significant concerns of stakeholders about these developments, and that they will impact on families accessing the perinatal mental health support that they need.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.