

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau**  
**Cymdeithasol**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Dr Dai Lloyd AM  
Chair, Health, Social Care & Sport Committee

23 July 2018

Dear Dai

Thank you for your letter dated 3 July 2018, requesting an update from the National Advisory Group (NAG) meeting held on 28 June to further inform the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee inquiry into suicide prevention. This letter focuses on those areas that I referred to during my attendance at the Committee on 27 June 2018.

Firstly, the Committee raised concerns regarding awareness and availability of the 'Help is at Hand' resource. This has been considered by the NAG and immediate agreed actions include working with Public Health Wales to raise the profile and awareness of the resource. Both Dr Liz Davies, Senior Medical Officer, Mental Health, and Public Health Wales have written to the Jacob Abraham Foundation and Tir Dewi providing copies of the Help is at Hand resource. Professor Ann John has also invited both organisations to meet with Public Health Wales to discuss their concerns.

The NAG also confirmed that the suicide and self harm training frameworks referenced in the midpoint review will be launched in England in July. There has been Welsh input into their development and the NAG is considering adoption in Wales. The NAG also discussed a post-vention pathway and possible steps to consider this for Wales.

With regards to a specific public awareness campaign, the NAG is currently reviewing the suicide and stigma campaign in Scotland with an emphasis on progress and impact, to inform recommendations for similar action in Wales. This will include considering the fit with existing programmes, for instance Time to Change Wales and the work of the National Partnership Board task and finish group exploring mental health stigma.

During the Committee meeting, concerns were also raised regarding inconsistencies in the make-up and operation of the Regional Forums. As I reflected at the Committee, the Regional Forums are responsible for their own local suicide prevention strategies in line with guidance issued by the NAG. Regional Forums report directly to the NAG, providing

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@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.

progress updates at meetings. Implementation oversight is maintained through the NAG. Whilst we would expect local variation based on local need and I have asked my officials to raise these concerns at a future NAG meeting.

I hope that this update assists the Committee in your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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