



Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

24 January 2014

Dear Colleague

## **Inquiry into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

The Children, Young People and Education Committee have agreed to undertake an inquiry into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The Committee has agreed to focus on some key issues around CAMHS in the context of the Welsh Government's reforms as set out in *Breaking the Barriers*; the implementation of the *Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010*; and the Welsh Government's 2012 mental health strategy *Together for Mental Health*.

The Committee is interested in hearing about:

- The availability of early intervention services for children and adolescents with mental health problems;
- Access to community specialist CAMHS at tier 2 and above for children and adolescents with mental health problems, including access to psychological therapies;
- The extent to which CAMHS are embedded within broader health and social care services;
- Whether CAMHS is given sufficient priority within broader mental health and social care services, including the allocation of resources to CAMHS;

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- Whether there is significant regional variation in access to CAMHS across Wales;
- The effectiveness of the arrangements for children and young people with mental health problems who need emergency services;
- The extent to which the current provision of CAMHS is promoting safeguarding, children's rights, and the engagement of children and young people; and
- Any other key issues identified by stakeholders.

### **Invitation to contribute to the inquiry**

The Committee welcomes responses in English or Welsh from both individuals and organisations and will hold oral evidence sessions in due course.

The Committee welcomes contributions in English or Welsh. Submissions should be no longer than five sides of A4, with numbered paragraphs, and should focus on the terms of reference as set out above.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy (preferably not in PDF) of your submission to [CYPCommittee@wales.gov.uk](mailto:CYPCommittee@wales.gov.uk).

Alternatively, you can write to:

Committee Clerk  
 Children, Young People and Education Committee  
 National Assembly for Wales  
 Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by **Friday 28 February 2014**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

### **Disclosure of Information**

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include

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information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Ann Jones AM**  
Chair