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Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: SF/EH/0627/08

Your ref:



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## **TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON *EATING DISORDERS: PATHWAY FOR WALES***

Developing services for people suffering from eating disorders is a priority. Without appropriate treatment and care, recovery from conditions such as Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa is very difficult and their effects on sufferers can be chronic and, in some tragic cases, fatal. I have made it clear that the standard of services across Wales need to improve significantly. To this end I am determined to enhance the levels of community-based provision in Wales.

The improvement of eating disorder services requires a clear pathway of care and treatment. The key to effective care for people with an eating disorder is to make sure that all parts of the service - and especially primary care, local mental health services and acute medical staff - understand and deliver their respective roles.

To take this forward, I announced on 15 October that I have allocated £0.5m next year, then £1m recurring, to take forward the development of community services for eating disorders. Furthermore, I requested that the National Public Health Service (NPHS) discussion document 'Eating Disorders Proposed Care Pathway/Model of Care' (2006) should be reviewed and updated.

The resultant consultation document, which I have enclosed called 'Eating Disorders: Framework for Wales', takes the form of NPHS technical advice to the Welsh Assembly Government. It has taken into account the following issues:

- a) NHS Wales re-structuring
- b) Co-morbidity with other conditions
- c) Medical stabilisation and re-feeding for severe cases, including input from physicians and dieticians
- d) All best practice on eating disorders issued since 2006.

The document is now available for technical consultation until 30 January 2009. It outlines ways that health services can improve provision for people with eating disorders and suggests where additional funding and resources can be targeted. The proposed pathway and recommendations intend to reduce the need for patients to access in-patient services by providing earlier specialist intervention for new patients and additional preventative services for those patients who have more complex needs. An Executive Summary is also included.

Attached below are consultation questions that I ask you to address.

**Consultation Questions:**

1. What are the challenges to the implementation of the Pathway nationally and locally?
2. What are your views on the recommendations for specialist tertiary eating disorder teams?
3. Any other specific comments

Responses to the consultation can be sent by email to [MentalHealthPolicyMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MentalHealthPolicyMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to:

Eating Disorders Framework Consultation  
Mental Health, Vulnerable Groups and Offenders Branch  
Department for Health and Social Services  
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Details and documents are also available online at:  
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/?lang=en>. The deadline for responses is 30 January 2009.

