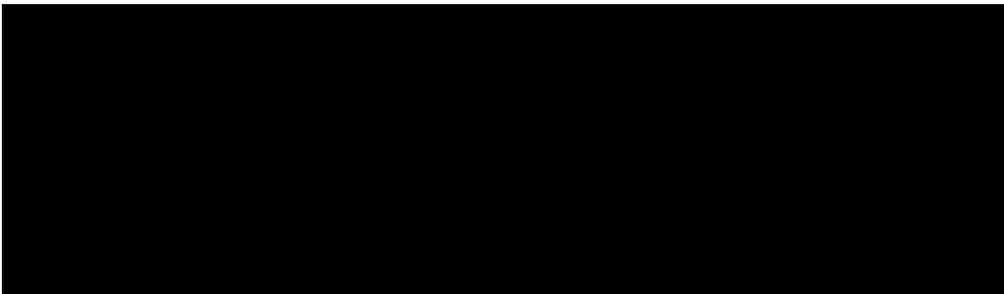


Health and Wellbeing Board Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall (CH0226)
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DF

19 October 2016



Dear Professor Payne

Public Question to Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board 6 October 2016

Thank you for attending Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board public meeting on 6 October 2016 and asking the board your question: 'What are Hertfordshire doing about the large population of people with medically unexplained symptoms (MUS) for which there is no current appropriate service and who are extremely costly to the NHS?'

Please see below the responses to your question from East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group and Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group

A report summarising the *Pathways 2 Wellbeing* Medically Unexplained Symptoms pilot, whereby The University of Hertfordshire was funded, £48,000 to pilot six courses throughout 2015/16 for patients with MUS and accompanying depression and/or anxiety using The BodyMind Approach (TBMA) was recently considered by the Mental Health Planning and Performance Group. It is recommended that learning from the pilot should be taken into account with regard to how this or an intervention with similar therapeutic principles may be delivered cost effectively through a co-production as part of the offering available under the Recovery College.

Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group

Herts Valleys CCG has reviewed MUS as part of the Integrated Planned and Primary Care Programme board and did look at a pilot to be funded from the Better Care Fund but unfortunately at this time did not go forward. Instead, as part of the new models of care

being developed as Your Care, Your Future Medically Unexplained Symptoms have been included in the Community Musculoskeletal (MSK) and Pain service which it is planned will go out to procurement in this financial year for implementation in 2017. This will include both managing the physical and psychological impact for patients.

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

Within HPFT, we have a number of initiatives within our mainstream acute liaison Rapid Assessment, Interface and Discharge (RAID) and Wellbeing Improved Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services that seek to identify and work with people who have been identified as experiencing medically unexplained symptoms/conditions where there may be a psychological component to their needs. We are also in discussion with our commissioners about the expansion of our IAPT services to capture MUS as part of our future expansion of this service.

The Board values the input gained from engaging with partner organisations and your question has stimulated further discussion among Board members about the need to develop a cost effective pathway. Along with existing provision of services, MUS will be considered alongside other service priorities as future priorities and investment areas are identified.

Yours sincerely



**County Councillor Colette Wyatt-Lowe
Chairman of Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board**