Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y <u>Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol</u> ar <u>anghydraddoldebau iechyd meddwl</u>

This response was submitted to the <u>Health and Social Care</u> <u>Committee</u> consultation on <u>mental health inequalities</u>

MHI 02 Ymateb gan: Response from: Unigolyn An Individual
Hi
I am writing on behalf of a mental health provision in Wales. I would like my observations recorded.
1. Prior to 2008 I worked for a gentleman called . My ability to provide care for my patients was often limited by poor access to training, limited talking therapies, no beds for inpatients, and poor access to infrastructure necessities such as IT equipment. However I felt that due to extreme effort by all involved we were able to provide a safe service albeit not as good as we would have liked. We were able to travel to the geographic locality which made a huge impact on accessibility for more impoverished clients.
2. Post 2008 departed and I noted a huge downgrading in my service. We saw an increase in our catchment age and a clear reduction in staff. We were transferred to a more centralised base such that patients were required to travel to appointments and as such the poorer clients were now finding it difficult to access care (this was done without prior planning and consultation). I was so concerned for the poorer clients that I whistle blew to my MP (after a near fatal incident saw a child with epilepsy fail to have a crucial letter typed for over 4 months) and nearly all staff in my unit go off with stress related illnesses. I had around 400 patients allocated to my care at that time and I note that the RCPSYCHE recommendation would have been less than half that number.
3. Subsequent to my whistle blowing I received the traditional welsh NHS response of extreme bullying that eventually led to my retiring. However I noted that in order to create complaints against me my diary was tampered with and very unwell patients were cancelled (one or two were never seen again). I feel that the bullying of staff adversely affects health provision enormously and am aware that in child psychiatry especially, whistle blowing and bullying were not unusual.

I hope this is helpful to your enquiry.

Best wishes