

Pupil Wellbeing Branch  
Support for Learners Division Infrastructure, Curriculum, Qualification  
and Learner Support Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
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### **Background**

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru is the national charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people. We support and represent the interests of deaf children and young people from birth through to independence. In referring to "deaf" we refer to all levels of hearing loss, including mild, moderate, severe, profound and temporary hearing loss.

### **Draft guidelines for local authority counselling services and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) on collaborative working**

We are pleased to have the opportunity to respond to the above detailed consultation.

Our response relates to just one of the consultation questions as follows:

### **Question 2 - Is there anything missing from the guidelines which you think should be included?**

It is essential that the guidance compels local authorities and third party providers of counselling services to be mindful of the particular needs of deaf and disabled children.

Deaf children have an increased risk of developing a range of emotional and mental health problems and although they may represent a tiny minority of the total of children requiring counselling and mental health support it is important that their specific needs are taken account of.

It would be hugely beneficial for ongoing training (and materials, such as the [school based counselling toolkit](#)), to be made available to frontline practitioners to support them to understand the emotional and mental health needs of deaf and disabled children.

Whilst the availability of such materials is important, this must equally be supported by local knowledge within CAHMS teams to ensure that support and intervention is appropriate and whether more specialist intervention by CAHMS is required.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Kate Cabbage  
Policy and Campaigns Officer