

Donna Ockenden

January 2017

A letter from Vaughan Gething, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport has been sent to families in regard to the comprehensive HASCAS independent investigation into Concerns relating to the care of individual patients on Tawel Fan and the Donna Ockenden governance review.

As vital pieces of work on the investigation move into the final stages an explanation of next steps has been outlined. A number of families affected and wider stakeholders asked for clarity on the governance and oversight arrangements which has resulted in the establishment of an independent panel. The role of the panel is to provide assurance on the integrity of the investigation and governance review and ensure they are concluded in a timely way. In particular the panel will provide assurance that the content or timing of these reports are protected from any inappropriate influence.

Three highly experienced and very senior people have been appointed to the panel:

- Jack Straw will Chair the panel (previously a Chief Executive of a Local Authority and Local Health Board, and a Director of Social Services).
- Helen Bennett (currently works for Hafal, is a recognised leader in the field of mental health and has previously worked with the Care Quality Commission, the Public Services Ombudsman and Royal College of Psychiatrists on quality and standards).
- Philip Hodgson (previously held Director of Social Services positions in local authorities and Welsh Government appointments including the Chair of the National Safeguarding Advisory Panel).

The panel began work on January 30th and further updates will be provided in due course.