

Number: WG?????



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Draft School and community-based counselling operating toolkit

Date of issue: 23 October 2019
Action required: Responses by 18 December 2019

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Draft School and community-based counselling operating toolkit

Overview

This consultation seeks views on the Welsh Government's draft update to the original *School-based counselling operating toolkit* which was published in 2011.

How to respond

Responses to this consultation should be completed using the on-line form or by completing the questionnaire at the back of the document which can be e-mailed or posted to the addresses below.

The consultation was issued on 23 October 2019. The consultation closes on 18 December 2019.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

This consultation document reflects various changes in law and counselling provision since the original toolkit was published. This updated toolkit will replace the current [School based counselling operating toolkit](#) which issued in 2011.

The consultation documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at <https://gov.wales/consultations>

Contact details

Health and Wellbeing in Schools
Support for Learners Division
The Education Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
E-mail: Mentalhealth.Schools@gov.wales



@WG_Education



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General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation

If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

e-mail: Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or
0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Introduction

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the revised *School and community-based counselling operating toolkit*. The revised toolkit reflects various changes since the original guidance was published, such as changes in law and policy, increased provision of counselling for children and young people in a community setting, and the use of online counselling. It includes revised standards and guidance for counsellors and counselling services in Wales to enable counselling providers in schools and, increasingly in the wider community, to deliver services that are of high quality, safe, easily accessible and available at the point of need.

Why are we revising this toolkit?

The Welsh Government is committed to undertaking regular updates of guidance to take account of legislation and policy changes.

The aim of this revised guidance is to support schools and colleges to better understand their legal responsibilities and to clarify what effective counselling practice should look like. Some of the changes are factual in nature, reflecting recent updates in Welsh legislation, but most reflect best practice. Other changes have been made following suggestions from local authority counselling leads and providers to provide additional clarification.

This consultation seeks views on the clarity and usefulness of the changes we have made.

Where are we now?

This development of this updated guidance is the result of close collaboration with a working group comprising local authority counselling leads and providers from across Wales.

The revised toolkit has also been developed with a high level of input from colleagues from the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

What specific changes are we proposing?

All of the proposed changes are factual and do not propose a different policy approach to that outlined in the current toolkit. The emphasis remains on promoting best practice and achieving consistency of support for children and young people with emotional health and wellbeing problems.

Main changes to the document:

The revised toolkit reflects various changes since the original guidance was published, such as changes in law and policy, increased provision of counselling for children and young people in a community setting, and the use of online counselling. The revised toolkit will compliment other recently published Welsh Government guidance on the issue of suicide and self harm and is an important element in the development of the Welsh Government's whole school and whole system approach to supporting children and young people with emotional and wellbeing difficulties.

The refreshed toolkit includes new chapters on counselling delivered outside the school setting, online counselling, counsellor self care and continuous professional development.

Draft School and community-based counselling operating toolkit

Consultation response form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

e-mail/telephone number:

Your address:

Responses should be returned by **18 December 2019** to

Health and Wellbeing in Schools
Support for Learners Division
The Education Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: Mentalhealth.Schools@gov.wales

Question 1 – Please explain how you believe the revised counselling toolkit could be changed so as to have a positive effect on promoting consistency of provision of the counselling service across all Wales and equity of access for young people.

Supporting comments

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Question 2 – Do you agree that the content of the revised counselling toolkit is appropriate and effective? If not, what further amendments do you think are necessary?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

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Question 3 – Do you think that the revised counselling toolkit provides the right level of support for counselling providers and managers of counselling services on the best practice for delivering the service in both a school and community setting?

Supporting comments

Question 4 – Following publication of the revised counselling toolkit, what (if any) implementation activity (training and/or awareness-raising for specific audiences, for example) do you consider will be necessary?

Supporting comments

Question 5 – We would like to know your views on the effects that the *Draft school and community-based counselling operating toolkit* has on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could the positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Supporting comments

Question 6 – Please also explain how you believe the proposed toolkit could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Supporting comments

Question 7 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: