

Dr Hilary Cass OBE  
Chair

Specialised Commissioning  
NHS England  
Skipton House  
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12 July 2021

Dear Hilary

**RE: INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO GENDER IDENTITY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Thank you for your recent letter updating us on the progress of your review into gender identity services for children and young people. We are pleased to hear that you are making steady progress and we welcome your evidence-based focus, including the opportunities you have taken to listen to stakeholders, patients, and families.

In your letter you have set out a number of early findings and recommendations for us to consider while we await the outcome of your review. In particular, you highlighted the existing challenges around assessment of children and young people referred to specialist services, and the need to consider interim support for those on the waiting list following the exponential increase in the numbers of children and young people being referred into the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust's gender identity development service (GIDS).

Prior to your letter, NHS England had already been examining what more the health service can do to improve the quality of referral information the GIDS is receiving and how local referring healthcare professionals can be supported to ensure patients in their care and on the waiting list for GIDS have their full healthcare needs assessed and met. We are now in the process of establishing an interim regional professional support service to achieve these aims. The new service, which will operate across the country, will bring together specialists from a range of different clinical backgrounds. They will provide expert advice and support to referring healthcare professionals to help them to provide high quality information to the GIDS and, importantly, provide the best care and support for patients' full healthcare needs while they remain on the waiting list.

We have shared more information about this service publicly on our [website](#) and the support we are providing on a temporary basis while the regional professional support service is established over the next few months.

We believe these interim measures are consistent with your early findings but clearly it will be helpful for you to reflect on this service as part of your final report, assessing its place in any future model of service provision and how it should evolve.



NHS England is grateful for your update and we look forward to receiving your interim and then final report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Stewart', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Stewart

National Director, Specialised Commissioning  
NHS England