

There is an injustice that mentally ill patients from Wales who have committed serious dangerous crime are not treated in Wales but are accommodated in Ashworth High Secure Hospital Maghull Liverpool.

This lack in Wales has major repercussions for the patients and family. Their family have very long journeys to visit them and also the patients are effectively denied access to Welsh language. There are few if any welsh speaking staff at Ashworth. Can you image what it is like to be mentally ill, considered dangerous and only allowed to speak about deeply troubling symptoms in your second language.

When I worked there briefly I used my 'learner welsh' with some patients and they were delighted to hear their familiar language, the staff were less than pleased as they could not understand and were wary of promoting welsh amongst patients.

Wales should have provision inside its borders and also as an interim measure explore how the Merseyside Care Trust can put in place adequate provision for Welsh patients held at Ashworth who speak welsh.

I appreciate that this group of people who have committed serious crime are often overlooked because they are small in number and easily forgotten about when they are sent away to England but they deserved consideration

Graham Morgan

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