



**To/ Sophie Howe
Future Generations Commissioner
for Wales**

*Please ask for:
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Overview & Scrutiny

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28th March 2019

BY EMAIL

Summary: This letter is from the Public Services Board Performance Panel. It follows on from the meeting on 6th February 2019.

Dear Commissioner Howe,

We are writing to you because we wanted to highlight the issue of pooled budgets and resources for Public Services Board support.

The Panel have observed over the course of their scrutiny that there is no process or intent for creating a collaborative fund which would support project monitoring, governance and report development.

It is difficult to see how the success of Public Services Boards can be accurately and consistently measured and monitored without this ongoing resource in place.

If the intention of Public Services Boards is to add value and save money by merging resources for combined outcomes would not the development of Public Services Board Support Officers help facilitate this?

These Officers could feed back to the Chair of each Public Services Board and hold tangible data on project progress and outcomes. They can also ensure governance issues are dealt with.

Pooled budgets could also be used to deliver beneficial projects such as health prevention, CCTV safety projects and other locally advantageous schemes.

We feel that the continuing austerity on Local Councils is preventing statutory front line services from being adequately delivered. If you also include the collaborative aspect of the work expected from Public Services Boards the resource just is not there.

Services are vulnerable as a result of cuts which could lead to failure to meet targets. If we are struggling to deliver day to day services, this puts pressure on existing staff and projects, which in turn limits the amount of work they can contribute to in relation to joint working including PSBs – this includes the capacity to attend meeting and develop or read pertinent reports. This is a vicious cycle which needs to be broken.

We appreciate that work would need to be done to formalise this but feel it is an essential step for true collaboration.

Your comments and thoughts are most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jones".

Councillor Mary Jones

Convener, Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel

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