



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To/  
**Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams,**  
**Convener of the Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel**

**BY EMAIL**

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Overview & Scrutiny

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11 August 2013

Dear Paxton,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2014 and for attending the meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 4 August where we discussed the response to the Wellbeing Performance Panel's recommendations. I thought it would be useful to summarise the response of the Committee and confirm its decisions and I am sure you will share this with members of the Panel. In view of the importance of the issues involved, I have also copied this to Councillor Mark Child, the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, for his information.

Firstly, though, I want to express on behalf of the Scrutiny Programme Committee our thanks for the work you have all been putting in to this very important area of service delivery for the people of Swansea, many of whom are the most vulnerable and in need of the Council's support and help. We appreciate that the workload has been very heavy and have treated your comments most seriously, as we wish to ensure that the scrutiny of these services continue at the highest level possible.

In response to your Panel's recommendations, the Scrutiny Programme Committee therefore agreed to split the work of the current Panel as follows:

- a. a separate Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel be established;
- b. we will also create a separate Panel with a specific remit to focus on the Transforming Adult Social Services (TASS) agenda (looking at the change process and providing critical friend challenge to the proposed or anticipated improvements). This Panel will consider the outcome of the independent review into older people's services due to report in early September and how it will be used to progress the transformation of services, and inform budget discussions. As agreed by the Scrutiny Programme Committee elsewhere on our agenda on 4 August, this will start off as a Working Group to gain a greater understanding of the background to and the scope and terms of reference of the Panel.

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- c. As the Inquiry work of this Panel comes to an end, we will set it up as an Adult Social Services Performance Panel, and change the Terms of Reference so it reflects this change.

As you may recall from the discussions, it was clear to the Committee that it was not possible for discussions about performance of Adult Social Services to be detached from the current transformation programme. Committee also noted some weaknesses in terms of the provision of timely information / communication about the TASS agenda and developments to Councillors outside of the executive, and concern by those Councillors about the possible outcomes from changes. The Terms of Reference will be drawn up and reported to next committee to ensure these Panels have clear focus, that their workload is manageable and impactful.

The Committee's response to other issues raised by the Wellbeing Panel are:

- Pre-decision scrutiny on cabinet business is a matter for the Scrutiny Programme Committee to agree. However, we welcome Panel's drawing items to the Committee's attention and we confirmed that the Committee can delegate specific items to Performance Panels for deliberation.
- The Committee will give consideration to how scrutiny of the Western Bay Health & Social Care Regional Programme can be developed. It was noted that a presentation has been arranged for all councillors on 13 August on the Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme and why it has been established, who is involved and what it is aiming to achieve. The committee will await this meeting and then consider way forward in relation to scrutiny of the Western Bay arrangements.
- The issue raised about the consultation on changes to the Services for people with learning disabilities was noted – the Cabinet Member clarified the purpose of the consultation and current position. The committee felt there was scope for this area (e.g. service options) to be subject of future discussion by the new TASS Panel, as at this point the Cabinet Member confirmed there were no immediate changes proposed.
- The Cabinet Member acknowledged shortcomings in information / consultation with regard to members and accepted this needed to be improved.

I trust that the Panel will see that their concerns have been addressed and that the changes to the arrangements will take effect as soon as the new Panels have been established. We hope that existing Panel members will put themselves forward to serve on these new arrangements, which will be notified to all non-Executive Councillors separately.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR MIKE DAY**

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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