



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Councillor Jane Harris  
Cabinet Member, Adults & Vulnerable  
People  
Civic Centre  
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**Overview &  
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TASS/05

**12 January 2015**

Dear Councillor Harris

## **Transformation of Adult Social Services Working Group, 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The working group met twice at the start of January – 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. The aim of the first meeting was to gain an understanding of the Social Services and Well Being Act – its aims and objectives, intended impacts and what it means in terms of operational practice for the authority. The second meeting dealt with work planning and was facilitated by Ed Hammond from the CfPS.

### **Panel meeting held on January 5<sup>th</sup> - Social Services and Well Being Act**

The panel had a number of concerns which are detailed below and we would welcome your views on each one.

- The panel was concerned that the change taking place to ensure the Council was ready for the implementation of the Act in 2016 was not based on a sound understanding of the authority's unit costs for domiciliary care and residential care. Officers agreed that this was unknown and assured the panel that this was a piece of work that needed to be done. It was agreed that the panel would hold a session on unit costs which looked at the whole financial aspect of domiciliary care and residential care.
- The panel briefly touched on the long term future for adult and child & family services. The panel understood that some work had been done in some areas to look at combining the services but the panel was concerned about this.

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- There was some uncertainty over who was responsible for young people and women from Swansea who were in detention outside of Swansea. Officers agreed to report this back to the panel.
- Community resources – the panel agreed that the sooner this list of resources was available the better. However, approaching community groups to provide services/support would need to be managed carefully as some groups may not want or have the capacity to provide more services or support to users.
- Implications for practice – the panel understood that WG expects the implementation of the Act to be cost neutral and met within existing resources. Are you confident that this will be the case?
- We wish to understand what the Act means when it refers to social enterprises, co-operatives, etc.

### **Agreed**

- To invite you, the Chief Social Services Officer and relevant finance officers to the panel to detail the authority's unit costs for domiciliary care and residential care.
- Officers to provide the panel with the consultation documents for the draft regulations and code of practice and bring the authority's consultation response to the panel for comment before the end of February.
- That the panel be provided with the Western Bay regional implementation plan.

### **Panel meeting held on January 9<sup>th</sup> – work planning with Ed Hammd, CfPS**

Detailed below is the panel's draft work plan. The next step in the process will be for you and me to meet, along with relevant officers, to discuss the topics that the panel prioritised and to construct a timetable of scrutiny activity based on cabinet report dates and other relevant departmental dates.

The panel agreed that for each topic to be scrutinised it would consider it against 5 broad lines of inquiry:

- a) Cost
- b) The impact of Western Bay
- c) Interface and joint working with health partners
- d) Local area co-ordination
- e) Implications of the independent review of older people's services
- f) Implications of Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future

The panel took the long list of proposed changes in the TASS programme timeline that was presented to the panel in December and prioritised 5 topics.

1. Support to Carers
2. Volunteering and Befriending
3. Implement Local Area Coordination
4. Swansea Integration Plan – Network Hubs
5. Procurement Review

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The panel agreed that prior to the start of scrutiny work of Network Hubs it would require a briefing to provide a background and an overview of the role and workings of the hubs.

The panel also agreed that it would need a briefing on the Western Bay – what it is, its role, details of its work and planned projects, governance, accountability and how it works with partners.

The panel is keen to undertake some community engagement during its TASS work; it agreed that the Support to Carers would lend itself well to user engagement.

Thank you for meeting with me on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the work plan outlined above.

I hope you find this letter useful and informative. Given our discussions at the meeting a response is not required to this letter.

**Yours sincerely**

**CLLR BOB CLAY**  
**CONVENER OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF**  
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