



To:
Councillor Mark Child
Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing
Well

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Date 08 January 2019
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Summary: This is a letter from the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Care, Health and Ageing Well following the meeting of the Panel on 11 December 2018. It covers update on Social Care Practice Framework and Work Programme Timetable.

Dear Cllr Child

The Panel met on 11 December and received a presentation on the Social Care Practice Framework and discussed the Panel's Work Programme Timetable for 2018/19. We would like to thank you, Dave Howes, Ffion Larsen and Jessica Matthews of Social Care Wales for attending to present the items and answer the Panel's questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response. The main issues discussed are summarised below:

Social Care Practice Framework

We heard that the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act requires a change in approach to make social work more outcome focussed, and that it requires transformational change to deliver this. We were informed that the Collaborative Communications Skills training programme aims to develop social workers to work in a more outcome focussed way.

We heard that in the Authority we do not currently work in an outcome focussed way. A culture change is needed and training will be required for this. We were informed that

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an implementation plan for training should be in place early next year and will be implemented over three years. We heard that training will be delivered by team over 2 days with a half day follow up 4 to 6 weeks later.

We were informed that the Act is the driver for this and that the 22 Authorities are all in different stages of implementation. We heard that in Swansea, Children's Services are a long way down the journey to having a whole system approach. However Adult Services is at the very beginning, doing preparatory work, but some things are in place which will align with this approach. The Panel feels that social services are going in the right direction with this approach. And we were pleased to hear that newly qualified social workers are qualifying with the right skills set already.

Work Programme Timetable 2018/19

We discussed the Panel's work programme and in particular the Panel's interest in undertaking visits during the new municipal year. The department agreed to shape the visits based on the Panel's areas of interest.

We received an update on the withdrawal of Allied from the home care market and heard that all business and staff have moved over to one provider with no additional detrimental impact on the market. We were pleased to hear this but have concerns about the home care market going forward. We will want to monitor this closely. We also agreed to add an item to the future work programme on 'Procurement practice and assurance in social care'.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised but please note that in this instance, a formal response is not required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Black', written in a cursive style.

PETER BLACK
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