

By email

23/04/2019

RE: Letter from the Swansea PSB Scrutiny Panel

Dear Cllr Mary Jones,

Many thanks for your letter dated the 25th March 2019 on behalf of the Public Services Board (PSB) Performance Panel.

The issues the panel has raised regarding resourcing PSBs and pooling budgets has come to my attention in a number of different forums recently. I completely agree with the panel that one of the purposes of PSBs is to add value by merging resources for combined outcomes. Some PSBs are managing to do this more successfully than others. For example, Cwm Taf PSB have supporting officers and meeting spaces / resources financed by all partner organisations. In Gwent, the five PSBs are jointly funding a number of collaborative initiatives such as the 'Gwent Futures' and 'Gwent Green Grid' projects. This has taken effort, negotiation and bravery of public service leaders to pool their resources in the middle of the PSB table. As a scrutiny panel, you have the power to provide recommendations to your PSB to do the same and I would support you in that notion.

Despite local action, on a national level, I agree that the transformational change the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act demands has not been adequately resourced by Welsh Government. The monitoring and assessing work that I am currently completing is giving me further evidence that implementing the Act is extremely challenging in these times of austerity. The disparity between how the delivery of this Act has been resourced in comparison to the Social Services and Well-being Act is something I recently raised at the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee when giving evidence, urging that PSBs and public bodies are given more resources for innovation. I have already raised this with Julie James AM and intend to raise it with the First Minister over the next few months. In this way, your letter is very helpful in further proving this point.

I look forward to hearing how the PSB Performance Panel in Swansea take this forward.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about this. The views of those implementing the Act on the ground (or in your case overseeing it) provides useful additional insight which I am able to use in my

work and particularly in my discussions with Government on the action they need to take to support implementation.

Kind regards,



Sophie Howe
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales