



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

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Date 09 December 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 19 November 2019. It covers Assistive Technology, Workforce Development Plan and Improving Performance Data.

Dear Cllr Child

The Panel met on 19 November to discuss the Assistive Technology and Community Alarms mini commissioning review and the Workforce Development Plan and to discuss a paper on Improving Performance Data. We would like to thank you and Deborah Reed 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:

Telecare and Community Alarms Mini Commissioning Review

Deborah Reed briefed the Panel on this project and the revised timescale and scope.

We were informed that Community alarms are cost neutral and that the options appraisal will identify how assistive technology will be funded in the future. We were pleased to hear that the options appraisal will look at options for need and well as the options for providing it.

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We heard that anyone can have a community alarm as it is paid for by the individual. However need is assessed to have assistive technology provided by the Authority.

We were informed that the current contract with Carmarthen for community alarms finishes at the end of 2020 and that there is a possibility of a regional service with Neath Port Talbot in the future.

We heard that Housing and Social Services are both undertaking commissioning reviews which affect each area. We stated that there needs to be some joined up thinking between Social Services and Housing on the way forward. We will copy the Head of Housing into this letter so that he is aware of our request for him to engage with Social Services on this.

We expressed our view that the Authority needs to look at how assistive technology and community alarms are paid for. The Panel feels assistive technology would be a good subject for the integrated care fund and you confirmed that there is an increasing desire to work more closely with the Health Board and Neath Port Talbot on this.

We were informed that the options appraisal should be completed by the end of this financial year and will be brought to the Panel in the summer 2020.

Workforce Development Plan

The Panel was briefed on this issue including the structure of the Social Services Development and Training Unit, the purpose and function of the project group and a briefing on the plan. We asked a number of questions on this and were satisfied with the response.

Discussion paper on Improving Performance Data

Tony Beddow briefed you and Panel Members on this proposal for improving our understanding of the agreed range of adult care services and of the performance and budgeting data.

We told you that it is understood that Welsh Government may be willing to undertake work with some authorities to obtain this information.

You confirmed that you have no problem with the principle of it but the research would have to be fully funded, as it is a very large piece of work.

We referred this formally to you for you to have further discussions with the Director of Social Services and to decide whether to take this forward and apply for funding from Welsh Government.

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', with a stylized, cursive script.

PETER BLACK
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