

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

SENT BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Andrea Lewis
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Our Ref: AL/JW
Your Ref:
Date: 29 October 2019

Dear Councillor Jones

CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION – 9 SEPTEMBER

Thank you for your letter dated 16th October. I am writing to you in response to the points you made in relation to homelessness issues and statutory timescales for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).

The first housing issue you raised in your letter was in relation to the Housing First (H.F) initiative. As confirmed at Scrutiny on the 9th September 2019, the Local Authority have recently gone through a procurement process and The Wallich will be the third sector organisation responsible for delivering *Housing First* in Swansea over the next 3 years, with a view to extending this for up to 5 years. The contract commenced in August 19, and they have just completed the recruitment phase for the project. We are now working with the Wallich's HF team to identify the first names for the project and it is hoped that The Wallich will be commencing support of these clients in the next few weeks. The Wallich will be required to be supporting a minimum of 20 clients by August 20.

We know that the HF project is challenging and therefore working with relevant partners will be essential if we are to achieve successful outcomes. There will be a strategic steering group that will meet regularly and this group will be responsible for monitoring the success of the project and to identify and overcome any barriers that may occur over the duration of the contract. In addition there will be an operational steering group that will meet on a regular basis and the appropriate Local Health Board representatives will be part of both these steering groups. There will also be representation from Supporting People, RSL's, and a number of third sector organisations, which outlines the commitment to a multi-agency approach when trying to assist the most vulnerable client group in our City.

It was also noted from Scrutiny that there is a need for the Local Authority to continue to work with our third sector partners, such as Crisis. I will ensure that these positive relationships continue to happen. Housing First alone is not going to eliminate the need to sleep rough and we will inevitably need to continue to work in co-productive way with all our partners if we are to achieve the actions set out in the Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 2022.

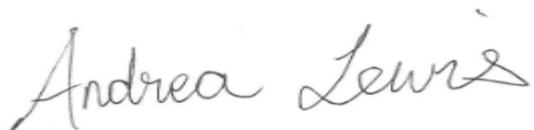
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With regard to your question about statutory time scales for delivering DFG's, up until the end of 2018-19 there were no statutory timescales

However, in April 2019 , Welsh Government in response to the recommendations within the Wales Audit Office review of Housing Adaptations in Wales, introduced service standards for all housing adaptations including DFGs. This will be reported to the Welsh Government at the end of this financial year.

I hope this addresses your points, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Lewis".

**COUNCILLOR ANDREA LEWIS
DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, ENERGY & SERVICE
TRANSFORMATION**