

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/GT/0505/12

Arwel Ellis Owen
Rhian Huws Williams
Care Council for
Wales
South Gate House,
Wood Street,
Cardiff
CF10 1EW

Imelda Richardson
CSSIW
Welsh Government
Rhydycar Business
Park,
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ

4 April 2012

Dear Arwel, Rhian and Imelda,

I am writing to you further to our meeting on Monday 26 March during which we discussed your response to Sustainable Social Services. During that meeting I committed to writing to you to confirm the outcome of our discussions.

Thank you again for your response which we initially discussed in January and for your subsequent engagement in putting that forward to my Partnership Forum. I felt that those discussions were useful in themselves, but were also valuable in connecting these issues with the broader social services family.

Your response builds upon the real success of regulation to date and the modernisation processes being energetically carried forward by each of your organisations. It also needs to be seen in the context of the Social Services (Wales) Bill which will provide the environment within which the approach to regulation can be taken forward into the future.

I am grateful that you have worked hard at this task and have shown huge commitment and determination in developing your response, which I know represents a different type of challenge for your organisations. You have addressed this with vigour at the same time as pursuing your existing wide ranging programmes of work. You have been open about the constraints and opportunities you have experienced whilst taking this forward and it has been encouraging to see evidence of your growing relationship and creativity as you have progressed this, breaking through many of the barriers to better joint working. I really value the spirit in which you have done this.

I also want to commend you for the excellent work you are doing to modernise the delivery of regulation and your organisations. I have made it clear publically that your modernisation programmes are absolutely key and I look forward to you keeping me up to date as they progress.

As you have identified, there are considerable complexities in working across the two organisations because of your different governance structures. I think we need to recognise those issues and focus now on your very effective modernisation programmes, the future development of your joint working relationship and the

opportunities that arise from the Social Service (Wales) Bill. In this way we can clearly make a difference and deliver change without adding to the complexity of the current arrangements.

I am grateful for the leadership and commitment you have shown to this process thus far and to the way in which so many of your staff have positively contributed towards this. I would be grateful if you could thank them on my behalf. I look forward to continuing to engage with you in relation to this. In order to support the work needed to take this forward to the next stage, my officials will be in touch with your officers to arrange a meeting so that they can discuss your detailed proposals with you in order to provide more detailed feedback and analysis.

*Yours sincerely,
Gwenda.*

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