



Bwrdd Cyngorau Iechyd Cymuned Cymru
33-35 Heol y Gadeirllan
CAERDYDD
CF11 9HB

Board of Community Health Councils in Wales
33-35 Cathedral Road
CARDIFF
CF11 9HB

3rd November 2016

Sent to: PS.CabSecHealthWandS@gov.wales

Vaughan Gething AM
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-Being and Sport
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Vaughan,

I write to update you on the progress made by the CHC Board since our meeting in July 2016. The CHC Board has set itself a challenging agenda, and has taken some significant steps forward.

My Acting Chief Executives and I have continued to work together to provide visible leadership. I have held one to one meetings with the CHC Chairs and Independent Members of the Board. Alongside my Acting Chief Executives, I am meeting with the CHC Executive Committees across Wales to discuss the Board's plans and priorities.

I will be chairing a Members Conference in Cardiff on 8th December 2016, where we will focus collectively on our common purpose and strategic direction. Should your diary allow, we would very much value your involvement in the day, and I have asked my office to contact your diary secretary in this regard?

The Board has considered and agreed an approach to communications and engagement which seeks to re-define our relationship with the media. With this in mind, I have recently appeared on *Newsweek Wales* and my Acting Chief Executives have represented the views of CHCs on behalf of patients and the public on a range of health related matters both in the media and at national conferences and events.

Having identified good practice from across CHCs, the Board's Senior Management Team has recently agreed a consistent approach to the use of social media to support CHC engagement activities.

The Board and CHCs have agreed an integrated planning cycle that includes engagement with key partners and wider stakeholders. As part of this framework, my Acting Chief Executives are in discussion with HIW's Chief Executive and her team about our partnership arrangements and joint priorities for 2017/2018. HIW's Chief Executive, along with other key partners such as the Older People's

Commissioner are invited to attend future Board meetings to discuss our priorities and identify opportunities for collaborative working.

Underpinning all this, work is continuing with Welsh Government officials and Powys Teaching Health Board to design and agree a clear accountability framework that establishes the role and relationships between the CHC Board and key partners. This includes new Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions that give full effect to our regulations and provide a clear framework for decision making.

As you will be aware, we adopted National Standards for CHCs earlier this year, and work is underway within CHCs to carry out a baseline assessment of current performance against the Standards. This will inform the work of the Board's sub-committees in developing a peer-review approach to assessment against the Standards. This will enable us to identify and share good practice as well as drive improvement where needed. We are also engaging on our National Standards with the public, partners and other stakeholders to inform any further development.

I look forward to meeting with you again soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mutale Merrill, OBE
Board Chair

Cc. Professor Jean White,
Chief Nursing Officer,
Health and Social Services Group,
Welsh Government

Acting Joint Chief Executives,
Alyson Thomas / Claire Jenkins