Dear Colleague,

Alongside the conversations I am having with each of you I thought you would be interested in a quick update on the progress being made in the Effective Services for Vulnerable Groups programme, and how your organisations can engage.

Two of the projects in the programme have recently reported:

- Jeff Farrar, Deputy Chief Constable at Gwent Police, presented the findings from the multi-agency work in Gwent on **children and young adults who repeatedly go missing** to PSLG in March, where the proposal to test a new ‘HUB’ approach was warmly endorsed. Work is underway on the design and implementation of the new model which is expected to go live across Gwent in September. An evaluation will be undertaken to inform decisions on whether the approach should be adopted in other parts of Wales and for other vulnerable groups. A summary of the key findings and next steps can be found [here](#).

- The **10,000 Safer Lives** project seeking to improve the service that ‘non-high risk’ victims of domestic abuse receive reported to PSLG in May. Keith Griffiths, Chief Executive of Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC, who has been a strong champion of this work for the programme, presented a set of minimum service standards and a list of ‘five key steps’ that front line workers and organisations should follow when working with victims of domestic abuse. These are available [here](#). I would welcome your help in cascading these products within your organisations.

The programme has previously identified effective practices around:

- promoting independent living and wellbeing for frail and elderly people;
- improving the life chances of families, particularly those with complex needs, through promoting a team around the family approach; and
- improving the education, training, and employment prospects for young people

- I am currently seeking someone to take on the lead on the **independent living and wellbeing** agenda, in light of Abigail Harris’s move to the Welsh Government. I am pleased that she has agreed to stay involved in the programme in her new role. This person will pick up an active programme of work – including revisiting the integrated approaches mapped by the original study in 2011 to capture what has happened since then; a focused piece of research around social isolation; and a two year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the Centre for Innovative Ageing at Swansea University to strengthen our ability to assess the impact of integrated working practices and assist with the rapid transfer of effective integrated/collaborative models of service delivery.
• We have been developing a tool that can help measure the cost impact of the interventions we are making, as a way of demonstrating the financial benefits of adopting a **team around the family** approach. A Family Savings Calculator has been developed and tested within Rhondda Cynon Taf, with positive results, and is now in a position to be used more widely. I believe this calculator can provide a powerful snapshot of the savings your interventions are generating. A webinar is being arranged to demonstrate how the tool works, and I will be writing out shortly to confirm details. **I would encourage you to ensure that at least one person from your organisation joins this webinar.**

• We had an interesting discussion at the last meeting of my Delivery Board around **youth engagement**, and the role the programme can play in both raising the profile and increasing understanding of this challenging area – building on the findings from the work in Swansea and Wrexham. Helen Patterson, Chief Executive of Wrexham, has agreed to take the lead on this and will be working with the Welsh Government to identify where the programme can add most value.

Finally we have two projects just starting:

• Following endorsement at the last meeting of my Delivery Board on 9 May Constance Adams from the WCVA is leading a project seeking to raise awareness of practical examples of **citizen directed support** approaches to delivering services to people with learning disabilities. The project has completed its initial research into existing approaches to citizen directed support and is now looking in detail at a small number of case studies.

• I will be bringing a proposal for a new project to the next meeting of the Delivery Board in July. Dr. Sharon Hopkins, Director of Public Health at Cardiff and Vale UHB, and I agree there would be value in exploring the deep rooted delivery challenges associated with **co-occurring Mental Health & Substance Misuse** problems.

**If you would like to be involved in either of these projects, particularly if you are aware of any examples of existing effective practice, please get in touch.**

If you would be interested in more information on any of the projects, or would like to discuss the work of the programme in general, please feel free to contact either myself or Claire Germain at the Welsh Government on 029 2082 6745 or at Claire.Germain@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Goodall
Chief Executive, Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Chair, Effective Services for Vulnerable Groups Programme