

Item 5.3

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

7 November 2016

Dear Councillor Phil Bale,

On 11 October, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Tackling Poverty made a statement in Plenary that signalled the start of a broad programme of engagement with stakeholders on the Welsh Government's proposed new approach to building resilient communities. The statement indicated that he was also minded to phase out the Communities First (CF) Programme while establishing a new approach to meet the challenges of the future. I am writing to you as part of this engagement process.

My team and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of your Public Services Board in order to discuss the proposed new approach.

Building resilient communities focuses on three priority areas of Employment, Early Years and Empowerment. By prioritising in this way, the Cabinet Secretary wants to create communities that offer children the best start in life, communities that are ready and able to work and communities where the voices of local people are heard clearly when decisions are made.

Engagement activities are broadly threefold, seeking views upon: our proposed new approach to building resilient communities; the role of Communities First in delivering services and support to communities; and the practicalities and operational aspects of our current interventions, including links to the Lift and Communities for Work programmes. Our programme of engagement has already started with an online survey 'Talk Communities' launched on 24 October giving members of the public the opportunity to feed in their views. The survey can be accessed here <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/talk-communities/?lang=en>

Local Authorities and Public Services Board members are an important part of our programme of engagement. Through the new approach to communities, we are seeking to strengthen the framework within which Local Authorities and Public Services Boards engage with their communities and develop services that are sensitive and responsive to their diverse needs. I am conscious that you are currently undertaking an assessment of local well-being and engaging communities in that process. It would be very helpful to hear from you what you are learning from the process and what issues are being highlighted as important to communities.

My team and I would be very happy to attend a meeting of your Public Services Board to discuss the new approach to building resilient communities and to hear your views. If you would like to take up this offer, please contact Gemma Phillips on 03000 256560 or by email, gemma.phillips@wales.gsi.gov.uk to arrange.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo-Anne Daniels'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

Jo-Anne Daniels
Director of Communities and Tackling Poverty

CC: clive.bailey2@cardiff.gov.uk