Please find enclosed a copy of the written statement and Tackling Poverty Action Plan which was published by Welsh Government on 25 June. The action plan is also available to view on-line via the Welsh Government website:-
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/socialjustice/publications/tacklepovactionplan/?lang=en
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/socialjustice/publications/tacklepovactionplan/?skip=1&lang=cy

This plan draws together action across Welsh Government and has three main objectives:-
• preventing poverty
• helping people out of poverty, and
• mitigating the impact of poverty

This complements and supports existing child poverty duties as set out in the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. The action plan has a particular emphasis on team around the family, educational attainment, childcare and jobs. It will develop as a living document and will be refreshed in a year’s time when a progress report will also be published.

Collaboration between Local Government and the Welsh Government is crucial to tackling poverty. It is also crucial to work with all sectors to combine our efforts, prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion. Local government has a key role, both in terms of its own responsibilities and in terms of its leadership role.
Welsh Government officials have contacted Chief Executives of each local authority to issue an electronic link to the Plan. I have personally written to all Council leaders of each local authority in Wales, and to Steve Thomas, Chief Executive WLGA to ensure all are made aware of this publication. I have also taken steps to draw the plan to the attention of all councillors.

Publication of the plan is however only a first step. I wish to engage with you now on implementation. To this end I intend to put it on the agenda of existing leadership groups, including the Partnership Council for Wales and the Public Service Leadership Group (PSLG). I should be grateful if you would also draw this to the attention of your Local Service Boards.

I look forward to seeing how local government is able to contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities