Dear Colleague

Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery

I am writing to let you know that the statutory guidance on integrating plans and partnerships, Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery, is now published for consultation and to thank you for your valuable contribution so far in developing this policy. It has been a real partnership effort and I am confident that the sharper focus on priorities and reduction in bureaucracy will enable us all to work more effectively on delivering real improvements for people in Wales.

I also wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of local service boards in driving my public service reform agenda and I set this out clearly in the new guidance. LSBs are the exemplar of the Welsh approach to reform: working together not because we are obliged to, but because we share common values and purpose. The more we collectively focus on the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, the more we focus our resources on prevention rather than cure, changing outcomes rather than fixing problems, the greater the need for LSBs to provide strategic local leadership, making sure collaboration and co-ordination is in the very DNA of member organisations.

Transforming services to become more focused on early intervention involves difficult and complex changes. It involves delivering many more services closer to where people live, often in their own homes. It means better use of evidence and information, new skills for front line staff, new delivery partners and ways of making back office services facilitate transformation rather than block it.
Many areas are making significant progress in developing these new approaches – co-ordinating support for families with complex needs, helping elderly and frail people live independently, and making significant reductions in the number of young people not in education, employment or training, for instance.

One of the great challenges is for LSBs to accelerate this change and where you have developed or identified good practice, to share this learning with others. I will be putting much more emphasis now on the role of LSBs in transferring and adopting good practice, and on strengthening links with the Effective Services for Vulnerable People group, working to the Public Services Leadership Group.

Over the course of the next period, my officials will be writing to you from time to time to ask that your LSB review the evidence for best practice in the delivery of services for some key groups in your area. The purpose of this work is to make sure we are working from a strong evidence base and that we focus together on continuous improvement in the well-being of people in all corners of Wales.

*Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery* acknowledges that it is by working together that we can make the best progress. I hope you will work with me towards this common goal.

Blwyddyn newydd dda!

Carl Sargeant AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities