

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr Groves

15 April 2015

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member (Health, Housing and Wellbeing)
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 1 April 2015

Thank you for attending the above committee. This letter captures the agreed recommendations, comments and observations of the Committee with regard to the items in your portfolio apart from the report to Cabinet on the implementation of the homelessness aspects of the Housing Wales Act, which has been dealt with in a separate letter.

Adult Carers of Adults Inquiry Progress Report

Members wish to thank officers for completing the proforma showing the progress made on those recommendations that were agreed by the Cabinet. Members are pleased with the progress made to date in many of the areas covered by the recommendations. However, as acknowledged at the meeting, the performance indicators still show poor delivery in this area. Members note the answers given with regards to needing to improve the Care First database in terms of recording and extracting information and that it is envisaged work to improve this will be completed in the next few weeks, leading to more accurate performance information. Members look forward to seeing the evidence of this in future performance reports.

With regard to the performance targets in the Corporate Plan 2015-2017, Members note that there is a huge challenge in bridging the gap between current performance and the targets set. Members note your belief that it should be possible to achieve these and that what is most critical is to ensure that carers are offered a carer's assessment. In order to assist with improving the take-up of offers for a carer's assessment, Members recommend that the reasons for declining an offer be recorded and analysed, in order to see if there are areas of concern that could be addressed, thus boosting performance.

With regard to the proposed new specification for the carers services, Members note that work on this has slipped due to other work pressures but that the new specification is due to be completed in Quarter One 2015-16 and that this will make it easier for social workers to be aware of the menu of services available for carers in Cardiff at all times, not just when there is a crisis.

With regard to hospital discharges, Members were highly concerned to hear officers talk about an apparent lack of discharge planning. Members are aware that it is a duty of care for the Health Board to have a discharge plan for every patient. Members therefore seek clarification on this and the work that is planned or underway to address this, including possible joint discharge planning. It is Members view that safe discharge should always trump swift discharge. Members were pleased to hear that awareness-raising courses on the needs of carers will be undertaken in preparation for the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being Act and that these will cover hospital staff as well as social care staff.

RCF/ ICF Quarter Three Progress Report

Members wish to thank officers for their work in preparing the progress reports for Quarter Three considered at this meeting.

With regard to the RCF, Members note that £533,000 has been awarded for 2015/16. Members would like to receive clarification as to what this will be used for and ask that this be provided as soon as possible.

Similarly, with regard to the ICF, Members note that the Welsh Government has passed the funding for this to local health boards and that councils will then submit bids to these. Members note that, in Cardiff and the Vale, the Integrated Health and Social Care Programme will provide governance for the ICF projects. Members would like to receive clarification as to what bids will be made and ask that this be provided as soon as possible.

Members agree with the point made at the meeting that it is essential to learn the lessons arising from the pilot projects in order to improve services in a sustainable way. Members also think that it is critical to continue with joined up working between Health, Social Care and Housing, particularly in light of proposed senior management changes.

Finally, Members would like to accept the offer to visit the Smart House; please liaise with Scrutiny Services to arrange a mutually convenient time.

This letter contains a recommendation and therefore requires a response, please.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Groves', is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID GROVES

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Sian Walker Sarah McGill Sue Schelewa Nichola Poole
Claire Deguara Liz Patterson Nick Blake