



Ein cyf/Our ref MA - P/MD/1168/15

7 December 2015

Dear Colleague

We are now less than five months away from the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, which comes into force on 6 April 2016.

The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and their carers, and will play a critical role in transforming social services in Wales. In particular, the Act will give people greater freedom to decide the kind of support they need while offering consistent, high-quality services across the country.

To ensure this Act has the impact we would all wish to see, it is vital that our people who provide care and support services get the training they need to be aware of what the legislation will mean in their everyday work. After all, any Act can only be as effective as the people who make it work in practice. That is why I am writing to you.

Training is vital, not only in providing the workforce with the knowledge and skills they need to help achieve the aspirations of the Act, but also to changing culture and attitudes.

I expect all agencies involved in care and support to now be familiarising themselves with the legislation, finding out what it means for them and their people, and identifying who should be trained using the many excellent resources already available. Training is not only important for those working in social care, but also for practitioners in health, housing and any other fields that can contribute to the well-being of people in Wales.

It is essential we all set our priorities now for what we need to do to be ready and then collaborate with others to make sure everything happens as it should. It is only through proper training and collaborative working that we can bring about the change in culture needed to make the Act come to life for those providing and receiving care. We should also think about the workforce we will need in the longer-term and the implications for future training needs.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Hopefully, you are aware of all the information and materials already available to help you train your staff. I have provided over £1m of dedicated funding to the Care Council for Wales to be responsible for developing and implementing a national learning plan that equips the workforce with the knowledge, skills and understanding to bring the Act to life through their work. This includes an online Information and Learning Hub (www.ccwales.org.uk/getting-in-on-the-act-hub) where you can find all the latest information and resources for training and communication. By early December, four more specific learning modules will be available. These will provide an introduction and explanation of general functions as well as focusing on assessing and meeting individuals' needs; looked-after and accommodated children; and safeguarding. There will also be 'training the trainer' events to support those providing training on the implications of the Act.

I have also directed that the Social Care Workforce Development programme grant be strongly aligned with the training and development needs for implementation of the Act for this and subsequent years.

Therefore, an increasing level of resources and support are available to help you prepare your staff for the implications of the Act. I would urge you to make the most of them in training your staff so that, from 6 April next year, they will be able to play a well-informed role in helping transform social services and improving the well-being of people in Wales.

Yours sincerely
Mark Drakeford

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services