



Cambrian Buildings
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FL

Adeiladau Cambrian
Sgwar Mount Stuart
Caerdydd CF10 5FL

To: Christine Chapman AM, Chair, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

CC: Sarah Beasley, Clerk, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

10th July 2014

Dear Christine,

Publication of Section 12 Guidance, Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Act 2006: Best Practice Guidance for Engagement and Consultation with Older People on Changes to Community Services in Wales

I write to inform you that I have this week published new Guidance, issued under Section 12 of the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Act¹. The purpose of the Guidance, entitled 'Best Practice Guidance for Engagement and Consultation with Older People on Changes to Community Services in Wales', is to support Local Authorities to ensure full and meaningful engagement with older people when key decisions are being made regarding community services.

The Section 12 Guidance is to ensure that Local Authorities are paying due regard in law and are fully compliant with their legal commitments when proposals are made to change essential community services.

In addition, I have published a new Toolkit for older people. The new Toolkit, entitled 'Effective Engagement with Local Authorities: Toolkit for Older People', has been published as a practical tool to help older people ensure their views are heard by their Local Authorities, and that their views are fully reflected in any changes taking place to community



<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/30/contents>

services. The Toolkit is supported by a Local Authority Information Database on Community Services, including useful contact information and weblinks to key documents produced by Local Authorities.

The Section 12 Guidance, Toolkit, and Information Database may be found on the 'Publications' section of my website:

<http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/publications.aspx>. I have written to all Assembly Members to inform them about the Section 12 Guidance, and I would be grateful for your support in disseminating the publications within your Committee.

I understand the significant budgetary pressures on Local Authorities and that many difficult decisions will need to be made, however I am clear that older people must be fully involved in the design, development and delivery of community services, vital community assets that not only are essential for their health, independence and wellbeing, but are also integral to the delivery of emerging policy agendas within Wales.

I have previously discussed with you the proposal to launch a Committee Inquiry on the impact of changes to community services in Wales on older people and others, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further with you. I also welcome your support for these publications and I look forward to continue working with you to develop essential services that meet the needs of older people across Wales.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Communities, Local Government and Wellbeing Lead, Iwan Williams (iwan.williams@olderpeoplewales.com, 02920 445 045) to discuss the Section 12 Guidance and other publications in further detail.

Best wishes,



Sarah Rochira
Older People's Commissioner for Wales