

Nursing Directorate
Direct Line/Llinell Uniongyrchol: 01874 712708
Fax/Ffacs: 01874 712554
E-mail/e bost:

Our Ref: CS/sj

13th April 2012

carol.shillabeer2@wales.nhs.uk

Ms Catherine Hunt Deputy Clerk Health and Social Care Committee National Assembly for Wales Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Hunt

Re: Health and Social Care Committee: Inquiry into Residential Care for Older People

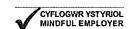
As requested on 14th March 2012 when I attended as a witness to the above committee, I am now in a position to provide additional information requested relating to the impact of different commissioning patterns used by local authorities upon health boards.

From my perspective of working in a co-terminous Health Board and Local Authority arrangement, I felt I could not adequately respond to the question without recourse to other Health Boards' views.

From those Health Boards who responded to the request for further information, it is clear that differing commissioning patterns do exist. This does inevitably mean that there is differing service availability in Health Boards. I did not receive any comments in relation to differing outcomes for people as a result.

It is clear that Health Boards are working with Local Authority partners to develop joint arrangements for the commissioning of services. This to date appears to have had varied success. Health Boards have raised concerns that where an agreed single approach has not been achieved in their "foot print" area, there is potential for confusion for healthcare workers and others.

Pencadlys y Bwrdd Iechyd Y Plasty, Bronllys, Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LS Ffôn: 01874 711661 Ffacs: 01874 711601



Health Board Headquarters Mansion House, Bronllys, Brecon, Powys LD3 0LS Tel: 01874 711661 Fax: 01874 711601





In summary, Health Boards welcome the move towards a greater emphasis on establishing joint commissioning plans, developed in partnership to promote a needs based approach whilst also encouraging consistency.

I hope this additional information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Carol Shillabeer Nurse Director

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