

Carl Sargeant AM
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
ELGC(5)-17-17 Papur 6/ Paper 6

16 May 2017

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Inquiry into poverty in Wales: Communities First – lessons learnt

Thank you for your letter dated 5 April 2017 regarding the Communities First funding arrangements. The Committee considered the letter at its meeting on 3 May and would appreciate if you could provide clarity on the following points:

- Data, and any analysis on the responses from the Talk Communities survey, and other stakeholder engagement, and information on how this was used to inform the final decision to close down the Communities First programme.
- More information on how recipients of transitional funding will report outcomes, and how the Welsh Government will assess the effectiveness of transitional arrangements.



During the summer term the Committee will be taking evidence from a range of stakeholders in relation to Communities First and the lessons learnt. We invite you to attend the meeting on **Wednesday 21 June 2017** to give evidence to inform our work.

We have issued a call for evidence which closes on **Monday 22 May**. More information is available on the consultation web page:

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?id=260&RPID=1508652600&cp=yes>

Once the consultation has closed we will be able to provide you with more information about the areas of questioning for the oral evidence session. We would ask for your written submission by **2 June 2017**.

Yours sincerely



John Griffiths AM
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P-CS-1329-17

John Griffiths AM
Chair of Equalities and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales

31st May 2017

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 16 May requesting further information regarding the Communities First programme and inviting me to give evidence to the Committee's inquiry into lessons learnt from Communities First

I am delighted to accept your invitation and will submit written evidence on behalf of the Welsh Government in due course.

As regards the analysis of the responses to the Talk Communities engagements, Arad Consulting were contracted, following a tendering process in line with Welsh Government procurement rules. Arad Consulting were asked to carry out a detailed analysis of all the feedback, both from the engagement events and the online survey. Their report was published on the Welsh Government Communities First webpages following my statement to Plenary in February and both the executive summary and full report can be accessed at the following link:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/communitiesfirst/?lang=en>

I took their report as well as the statutory impact assessments fully into account in making my decision about the future of the Programme.

In terms of reporting outcomes for the Communities First funding for 2017-18, to reflect this is a transitional year we have not mandated a single set of performance measures for all Lead Delivery Bodies (LDBs). Instead, we expect LDBs to develop clear, SMART objectives outlining what they will seek to achieve and how they will monitor progress.

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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.

This was outlined in the Transition and Strategy Guidance. They will also be required to submit two written monitoring reports, in September 2017 and March 2018, reporting on performance in year as well as progress with their transition.

Alongside these objectives, my officials are also monitoring the financial transactions and claims against the funding allocations.

As part of ensuring the effectiveness of LDBs' transitional arrangements, the Communities First Transition Team is meeting regularly with LDBs both individually and at Network Meetings and otherwise offering help and support during the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Carl Sargeant'.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children