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Y Grŵp Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Education and Public Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay AM  
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

10 July 2018

Dear Nick,

**THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE INQUIRY 25 JUNE 2018 – HOUSING ADAPTATIONS**

Following to the evidence session on 25 June 2018, you requested we provide information on gaps in Welsh Government data collection and further information on the importance of evidence in the measurement of the impact of interventions.

**Addressing the gaps**

Firstly, it might be helpful if I clarified the engagement of Large Scale Voluntary Transfer Organisations (LSVTs) in data collection and policy development. The Enable data collection is collecting information on adaptations from *all* organisations this includes LSVTs. In addition, the Aids and Adaptations Steering Group (formally the Enable Steering Group) did not previously have representation from the LSVT sector. However, to ensure we have a good understanding of this sector and in recognition of their unique position in providing housing adaptations, an LSVT representative has been asked to join the group.

As discussed in the evidence session, we agree that data collection and monitoring is a key area of work which we are taking steps to improve. The Enable data collection has been in place since January 2017. We are currently analysing data from the first year's returns, which includes data on the experience of over 12,000 individuals. The final report on this data collection is expected in autumn 2018. Our analysis has already highlighted a number of inconsistencies in the way service providers are recording data. We have taken steps to improve the consistency of returns for year two, including addressing gaps. The final report will help inform the next iteration of the data collection methodology and further improve our understanding of service provider performance and impact of these services.

A sub group of the Aids and Adaptations Steering Group has been established to update the guidance and templates, this will further improve consistency of data returns. The group



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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.

will meet in July with the aim of having improved data collection arrangements in force by the end of summer 2018.

### **Measuring impacts**

In terms of capturing the impacts and measuring the preventative aspects of housing adaptations, as we indicated at Committee, these are areas that are more difficult to measure. Work is being taken forward, but we need to be aware of the challenge of measuring preventative impacts. One approach currently underway is the work Care and Repair Cymru are undertaking with Swansea University's SAIL databank to establish evidence of the impact of their work on use of NHS services. The Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) Databank is a national data bank of anonymised health and administrative datasets about the population of Wales. The databank is used to inform and provide evidence to policy makers to improve health, well-being and services. For example it can track anonymised people using a range of data sets to determine how interventions impact on use of NHS services.

The data linkage study is expected to increase our understanding of the impact of adaptations on health service usage, in particular emergency admissions to hospital. This has the potential to be a powerful tool to help us measure and clearly evidence the preventative impact of providing adaptations. Before extending this approach beyond Care and Repair data, more work with the sector is needed to ensure current data capture is suitable for matching with the SAIL dataset. We will continue to work through the Aids and Adaptations Steering Group to further develop our understanding of the impact of interventions and the potential to use SAIL evidence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tracey Burke