

15 November 2017

Dear Colleague

### **Inquiry into the Supporting People Programme**

The National Assembly of Wales' Public Accounts Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the Welsh Government's Supporting People Programme. The Auditor General for Wales published a [report](#) on the Supporting People Programme on 31 August 2017, and the Committee has received a [response](#) from the Welsh Government to the Auditor General's recommendations.

The Committee is aware that the recent publication by the Welsh Government of the detail of its [budget plans](#) has created some uncertainty about the way in which Supporting People funding will be managed in future and this will be taken into account as part of the Committee's work.

The inquiry will consider the overall governance and management of the Supporting People Programme. The Committee **does not** have a role in scrutinising the Welsh Government's budget, but it can consider the way in which budgetary changes are implemented and their impact.

To assist with its inquiry, the Committee would welcome your views on the following matters:

#### **1. The impact of wider policy developments on the programme including:**

- The overall clarity of the Programme's objectives;
- The implications of, and emerging response to, the UK Government's Supported Accommodation review;
- How the Welsh Government might improve communication about the priorities for the Programme and the impact of wider developments;
- How best to align the work of the Regional Collaborative Committees with other collaborative governance arrangements;
- The lessons to be learned from the mixed effectiveness and impact of regional working over the past five years;
- The extent to which the governance and management arrangements for the Programme reflect the ways of working expected under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



## 2. Monitoring and evaluation including:

- How monitoring/outcome data is used to inform decision-making about programme expenditure and contract monitoring;
- The revised outcomes framework that the Welsh Government is proposing and the extent to which it will address the limitations of the current framework;
- How any revised outcomes framework arrangements can be best communicated and embedded;
- Other opportunities to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, including in assessing the relative value for money of comparable services.

## 3. The distribution of Programme funding and financial planning including:

- The issues that need to be considered in developing and implementing any new funding formula;
- How budget pressures and funding uncertainty have affected service planning and delivery;
- Reasons for the identified wide variation in financial support for different client groups across local authorities;
- Reasons for the noticeable change in the overall proportion of programme funds spent on floating and fixed support;
- The extent to which local and regional planning processes and spending reflect well-evidenced needs, rather than historical patterns.

### Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

The Committee welcomes responses in English or Welsh and will hold oral evidence sessions in due course.

Submissions should include numbered paragraphs, and focus on the matters set out above. Please see [guidance for those providing evidence for committees](#).

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy (preferably **not** in PDF) of your submission to [SeneddPAC@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddPAC@Assembly.Wales)

Alternatively, you can write to:

Committee Clerk - Public Accounts Committee

National Assembly for Wales - Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA



Submissions should arrive by **22 December 2017**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

### **Disclosure of Information**

The Assembly's policy on disclosure of information can be accessed [here](#), please ensure that you have considered these details carefully before submitting information to the Committee. Alternatively a hard copy of this policy can be requested by contacting the Clerk (0300 200 6565).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

**Nick Ramsay AM**  
**Chair**



## Consultation List:

The Committee has contacted the following organisations in relation to this inquiry, if you feel there are other organisations that may wish to respond please pass the consultation on:

- Shelter Cymru
- Chartered Institute Housing Cymru
- Independent members of Supporting People National Advisory Board
- Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru
- Public Health Wales NHS Trut
- Housing Leadership Cymru
- National Probation Service Wales
- Wales Community Rehabilitation Company
- the Supporting People Information Network
- the Supporting People Strategic Finance Group
- the Supporting People Governance Group
- individual local authorities and their Supporting People lead officers
- the six Regional Collaborative Committees
- individual provider organisations represented by Community Housing Cymru (registered social landlords) and Cymorth Cymru (such as Llamau and the Wallich).

