

Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus

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| Lleoliad: | I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a: |
| Ystafell Bwyllgora 3 – y Senedd | Fay Bowen |
| Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 20 Tachwedd | Clerc y Pwyllgor |
| 2017 | 0300 200 6565 |
| Amser: 13.45 | SeneddArchwilio@cynulliad.cymru |

(Rhag-gyfarfod preifat 13.45 – 14.00)

1 Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau

(14.00)

2 Papurau i'w nodi

(14.00 – 14.10)

(Tudalennau 1 – 3)

2.1 Rheoli meddyginiaethau: Gwybodaeth ychwanegol gan Llywodraeth Cymru

(30 Hydref 2017)

(Tudalennau 4 – 5)

2.2 Gweithredu Deddf Cyllid y GIG (Cymru) 2014: Gohebiaeth gan Lywodraeth

Cymru (6 Tachwedd 2017)

(Tudalennau 6 – 9)

2.3 Cyflog Uwch Reolwyr: Gohebiaeth gan Lywodraeth Cymru (8 Tachwedd 2017)

(Tudalennau 10 – 11)

3 Rhaglen Cefnogi Pobl Llywodraeth Cymru: Sesiwn dystiolaeth 1

(14.10 – 15:30)

(Tudalennau 12 – 42)

Papur briffio gan y Gwasanaeth Ymchwil

PAC(5)–29–17 Papur 1 – Papur atodol gan Tai Cymunedol Cymru

PAC(5)–29–17 Papur 2 – Papur atodol gan Cymorth Cymru

Stuart Ropke – Prif Weithredwr, Tai Cymunedol Cymru

Enid Roberts – Cyfarwyddwr Cynorthwyol, Cwsmeriaid a Chymunedau,

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd



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Katie Dalton – Cyfarwyddwr, Cymorth Cymru

Rhian Stone – Cyfarwyddwr Gofal a Chefnogaeth Grŵp POBL a Chyfarwyddwr
Cymorth Cymru

**4 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42 i benderfynu gwahardd y
cyhoedd o'r cyfarfod ar gyfer y busnes a ganlyn:**

(15.30)

Eitem 5

**5 Rhaglen Cefnogi Pobl Llywodraeth Cymru: Trafod y dystiolaeth a
ddaeth i law**

(15.30 – 16.00)

Cofnodion cryno – Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus

Lleoliad:

Gellir gwyllo'r cyfarfod ar [Senedd TV](http://senedd.tv) yn:

Ystafell Bwyllgora 3 – Senedd

<http://senedd.tv/cy/4352>

Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 6 Tachwedd 2017

Amser: 13.00 – 16.02

Yn bresennol

| Categori | Enwau |
|--------------------------|---|
| Aelodau'r Cynulliad: | Nick Ramsay AC (Cadeirydd) Vikki Howells AC Rhianon Passmore AC Lee Waters AC Angela Burns AC (yn lle Mohammad Asghar (Oscar) AC) |
| Tystion: | Nick Capaldi, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru David Michael, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru Linda Tomos, Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru Gwyn Williams, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru |
| Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru: | Huw Vaughan Thomas – Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru Anthony Barrett Matthew Mortlock |
| Staff y Pwyllgor: | Fay Bowen (Clerc) Claire Griffiths (Dirprwy Clerc) |



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Tudalen y pecyn 1

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| | <p>Katie Wyatt (Cyngorydd Cyfreithiol)</p> <p>Joanne McCarthy (Ymchwilydd)</p> <p>David Millett (Ymchwilydd)</p> <p>Gareth David Thomas (Ymchwilydd)</p> |
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1 Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau

- 1.1 Croesawodd y Cadeirydd yr Aelodau i'r Pwyllgor.
- 1.2 Cafwyd ymddiheuriadau gan Mohammad Asghar AC – dirprwyodd Angela Burns AC ar ei ran. Ymddiheurodd Neil Hamilton AC ac Adam Price AC hefyd.
- 1.3 Datganodd Lee Waters AC fuddiant fel Aelod o Bwyllgor Archif Gwleidyddol Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru.

2 Papur(au) i'w nodi

- 2.1 Cafodd y papurau eu nodi.
- 2.1 Craffu ar Gyfrifon 2016–17: Gwybodaeth ychwanegol gan Lywodraeth Gymru (16 Hydref 2017)
- 2.2 Craffu ar Gyfrifon 2016–17: Gwybodaeth ychwanegol gan Chwaraeon Cymru (1 Tachwedd 2017)
- 2.3 Arferion a gweithdrefnau gwaith y Pwyllgor: Penodi Prif Weithredwr Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru (18 Hydref 2017)

3 Craffu ar Gyfrifon 2016–17: Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru

- 3.1 Bu'r Aelodau yn craffu ar waith Nick Capaldi, Prif Weithredwr a Gwyn Williams, Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru ar Adroddiad Blynyddol a Chyfrifon 2016–17.
- 3.2 Cytunodd Nick Capaldi i anfon:

- rhagor o wybodaeth am swm y gyllideb a ddyrennir ar gyfer prosiectau sydd wedi'u targedu'n benodol i NEETS mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig, nifer y prosiectau a'r flaenoriaeth a roddir iddynt gan Gyngor y Celfyddydau;
 - dadansoddiad manwl o gronfeydd wrth gefn Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru; a
- Tudalen y pecyn 2

- nifer y sefydliadau a nodwyd yn rhai ‘risg coch’ yn y portffolio.

4 Craffu ar Gyfrifon 2016–17: Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru

3.1 Bu Aelodau yn craffu ar waith Linda Tomas, Llyfrgellydd Cenedlaethol; Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Llywydd a David Michael, Cyfarwyddwr Adnoddau Corfforaethol yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ar Adroddiad Blynyddol a Chyfrifon 2016–17.

5 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42 i benderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o’r cyfarfod ar gyfer y busnes canlynol:

5.1 Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

6 Craffu ar Gyfrifon 2016–17: Trafod y dystiolaeth a ddaeth i law

6.1 Trafododd yr Aelodau y dystiolaeth a ddaeth i law.

6.1 Gofynnodd y Cadeirydd i'r Clercod baratoi adroddiad er mwyn i'r Aelodau ei ystyried.

Eitem 2.1

Prif Swyddog Fferyllol Chief Pharmaceutical Officer



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay AC
Cadeirydd
Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus

Ein Cyf: AE

30 Hydref 2017

Annwyl Mr Ramsay

Gwybodaeth am y dyddiad y disgwylir i'r system Trawsgrifio Meddyginiaethau ac e-Ryddhau gael ei chyflwyno ledled Cymru

Yn ystod sesiwn dystiolaeth y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus ar 16 Hydref, euthum ati i ddarparu manylion i'r Pwyllgor am y dyddiad y disgwylir i'r system Trawsgrifio Meddyginiaethau ac e-Ryddhau gael ei chyflwyno ledled Cymru. Mae'r system yn cael ei chyflwyno mewn partneriaeth rhwng Gwasanaeth Gwybodeg GIG Cymru a phob bwrdd iechyd ac Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Felindre.

Hyd yma, mae'r gwaith o gyflwyno'r system wedi dechrau mewn pum bwrdd iechyd (Betsi Cadwaladr, Caerdydd a'r Fro, Cwm Taf, Hywel Dda a Phowys). Mae cynlluniau ar y gweill hefyd ar gyfer ei chyflwyno yng Nghanolfan Ganser Felindre. Yn y ddau fwrdd iechyd arall (Abertawe Bro Morgannwg ac Aneurin Bevan), mae trefniadau e-ryddhau lleol a fodolai eisoes ar waith. Mae crynodeb llawn o'r sefyllfa o ran cyflwyno'r system, sy'n cael ei ddarparu gan Wasanaeth Gwybodeg GIG Cymru, wedi'i gynnwys gyda'r llythyr hwn.

Yn qywir

Andrew Evans

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer/Prif Swyddog Fferyllol
Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government

Dogfennau yn amgaaedig



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| Sefydliad | Y Sefyllfa Bresennol | Dyddiad y disgwylir cwblhau |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg | Disgwylir i'r cynllun peilot gael ei roi ar waith ddechrau 2018 | I'w gadarnhau |
| Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan | Heb ddechrau | I'w gadarnhau |
| Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr | 37.5% o wardiau wedi'u cwblhau ar draws tri safle | Mehefin 2019 |
| Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro | Cam 1 wedi'i gwblhau Cam 2 (13 o wardiau) 31% wedi'i gwblhau Cam 3 (Iechyd Meddwl) heb ddechrau | I'w gadarnhau |
| Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf | 85% wedi'i gwblhau | Hydref 2017 |
| Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda | 16% wedi'i gwblhau | I'w gadarnhau |
| Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys | 21% wedi'i gwblhau | Tachwedd 2017 |
| Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Felindre | Gwaith ymgysylltu a chynllunio cychwynnol ar y gweill | Mawrth 2018 |

Eitem 2.2

**Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**

**Director General Health and Social Services/
NHS Wales Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Group**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Nick Ramsay AC
Cadeirydd
Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus

Ein cyf: AG/SE/JM

6 Tachwedd 2017

Annwyl Mr Ramsay

Deddf Cyllid y GIG (Cymru) 2014

Yn dilyn fy ymddangosiad gerbron y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus ar 10 Gorffennaf 2017 a'ch llythyr dyddiedig 11 Hydref 2017, hoffwn roi mwy o ymateb i'r Pwyllgor am y materion a godwyd. Gobeithio y bydd hyn o gymorth ichi.

Cyllid yn ystod y flwyddyn

Rydym wedi gweithredu ers cyflwyno'r Ddeddf i annog byrddau iechyd i roi'r gorau i ddibynnu ar gael mwy o gyllid yn ystod y flwyddyn, fel a wnaed yn y gorffennol. Yn benodol, rydym wedi bod yn gwbl glir na fyddwn yn rhoi cyllid i fyrddau i dalu am ddiffygion. Rydym wedi rhoi pwyslais cadarn ar lywodraethu ac atebolrwydd byrddau. O ganlyniad, comisiynwyd Deloitte LLP i gynnal adolygiadau o drefniadau llywodraethu ariannol y sefydliadau hynny sy'n cael eu huwchgysylltu. Cafodd eu hadroddiadau ac ymatebion y byrddau iechyd eu cyhoeddi gan y byrddau eu hunain ynghyd â'u papurau ar gyfer mis Medi.

O ran cynllunio ar gyfer y tymor canolig, rydym yn rhoi dyraniad referniw blyneddol wedi'i gadarnhau i'r byrddau iechyd o leiaf dri mis cyn dechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol. Rydym hefyd yn rhoi iddynt ragor o ragdybiaethau cynllunio i'w galluogi i gynllunio dros gyfnod o dair blynedd.

Rydym wedi rhoi £50 miliwn arall i sefydliadau'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (GIG) ar gyfer ariannu perfformiad yn 2017-18. Mae'r cyllid hwn yn ychwanegol i'r dyraniadau rheolaidd, ac mae'n galluogi sefydliadau i wella eu lefelau perfformiad arfaethedig yn ystod y flwyddyn.



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Yr Academi Gyllid

Uchelgais yr Academi Gyllid yw creu'r Gweithgarwch Cyllid "Gorau i Gymru ond y gellir ei gymharu â'r gorau yn unrhyw le." Mae'r uchelgais hwn yn cynnwys pedair prif thema:

- Datblygu ein Pobl
- Arloesi ac Ychwanegu Gwerth
- Gweithio mewn Partneriaeth
- Hyrwyddo Rhagoriaeth

Mae Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid yn gyfrifol am oruchwylio pob thema ac mae pob Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid yng Nghymru yn gyfrifol ar y cyd am oruchwylio'r rhaglen gyfan drwy Fwrdd yr Academi Gyllid

<http://www.financeacademy.wales.nhs.uk/hafan>

Mae llwyddiannau'r Cynlluniau Rhaglenni yn cynnwys:

- Y rhaglen Datblygu Sgiliau Cyllid – cyfres o ddigwyddiadau dysgu sy'n agored i bob aelod o staff cyllid GIG Cymru
- Recriwtio hyfforddeion graddedig yn flynyddol er mwyn cynllunio ar gyfer olyniaeth
- Rhaglenni datblygu Piblinell Dalent ar gyfer gwella Arweiniad Ariannol ar draws GIG Cymru
- Datblygu rhaglen wedi'i theilwra'n benodol o ddosbarthiadau meistr a fydd yn rhoi cymorth ymarferol i Gyfarwyddwyr Cyllid a'u huwch-dimau ar y themâu, gwerth, llywodraethu ariannol, deall amrywiadau a chyflenwi rhaglenni
- Cydweithredu â Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, Llywodraeth Leol a chyrff eraill sy'n cael arian cyhoeddus i drefnu hyfforddiant a datblygiad ariannol ar y cyd i fyfyrwyr/hyfforddeion ar draws y sector cyhoeddus
- Hyrwyddo methodoleg Gofal Iechyd seiliedig ar Werth a helpu i'w weithredu mewn ymarfer, gan gynnwys gwaith gyda'r Grŵp Gweithredu Iechyd Anadlol Cenedlaethol i nodi cyfleoedd mewn clefyd rhwystrol cronig yr ysgyfaint
- Gweithio gyda Chomisiwn Bevan i gefnogi rhaglen enghreifftiol Bevan – cefnogi gwerthuso ariannol a datblygu achosion busnes sy'n cael eu gyrru gan werth, dod â staff ariannol a chlinigol ynghyd a helpu i rannu ymarfer arloesol ar draws Cymru
- Rhaglen Gyfathrebu ac Ymgysylltu ar gyfer Staff Cyllid gan gynnwys arolygon, gwefan yr Academi Gyllid a chylchlythyrau i gefnogi datblygiad staff cyllid a thynnu sylw at gyfleoedd dysgu a datblygu
- Gweithio gyda grwpiau proffesiynol clinigol ac anghlinigol – gan gynnwys y gweithlu, caffael, gwybodeg, cynllunio, Adnoddau Dynol a Datblygu Sefydliadol – i rannu arferion da, profiad o sefydlu academi, a hwyluso digwyddiadau dysgu ar y cyd
- Datblygu partneriaethau gweithio â sefydliadau eraill i ddatblygu gwaith yr Academi gan gynnwys Cymdeithas Rheoli Cyllid Gofal Iechyd, cyrff cyfrifyddu proffesiynol, Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, prifysgolion, y sector preifat, y Consortiwm Rhyngwladol ar gyfer Canlyniadau Iechyd, Grŵp Datblygu Sgiliau Cyllid Cymru Gyfan
- Gwella'r defnydd o systemau a phrosesau mewn partneriaeth â Chyfarwyddwyr y Gweithlu (Rhaglen Hire 2 Retire) ac Arweinwyr Caffael (Rhaglen Purchase 2 Pay)

Mae cynigion ar gyfer rhaglenni'r dyfodol yn cynnwys:

- Datblygu cydraglen ddatblygu ariannol/clinigol ar gyfer dysgu y naill i'r llall ar draws proffesiynau
- Datblygu diwylliant o hyfforddi a mentora ar draws Cyllid GIG Cymru

- Datblygu Rhagoriaeth mewn Llywodraethu Ariannol – cefnogi datblygiad yn y maes Cyllid ac ar draws Byrddau
- Helpu i rannu Arloesi sy'n gweithio drwy'r gymuned gyllid

Hyfforddiant Cyllid ar gyfer aelodau'r Bwrdd

Ym mis Mehefin 2016 trefnodd yr Academi Gyllid sesiwn ddatblygu ar gyfer Aelodau Annibynnol ar Gyllid a Llywodraethu. Roedd y sesiwn ddatblygu yn cynnwys cyflwyniadau gan Ddirprwy Gyfarwyddwr GIG Cymru, Cyfarwyddwr Rhaglen Gyllid Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid un o'r Byrddau Iechyd Lleol, Cyfarwyddwr Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru ac Ysgrifenyddion Byrddau. Roedd y sesiwn Cyllid yn trafod cyllid a dyraniadau, Deddf Cyllid y GIG (Cymru) 2014, dyletswyddau ariannol tair blynedd, cynllunio tymor canolig integredig ac achosion busnes.

Mae Academi Wales, gyda chefnogaeth swyddogion Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a'r GIG, wedi datblygu Rhaglen Gynefino ar gyfer Aelodau Annibynnol newydd i roi iddynt yr wybodaeth a'r gefnogaeth sydd eu hangen arnynt i fod yn hyderus ac yn gynhyrchiol yn eu rolau. Bydd Modiwl 2 y rhaglen, "Cynllunio, Adnoddau a Chyflawni", yn cynnwys cyllid, a bydd yn seiliedig ar adran gyllid yr Academi Gyllid cyn hyn, ar gyllid a dyraniadau, Deddf Cyllid y GIG (Cymru) 2014, dyletswyddau ariannol tair blynedd, cynllunio tymor canolig integredig ac achosion busnes.

Adrodd am Ddiffygion

Rwy'n nodi barn y Pwyllgor bod diffygion yn cael eu dangos yn glir ar fantolen sefydliadau. Mae ffurf cyfrifon byrddau Iechyd Lleol yn dilyn cyfarwyddiadau a gyhoeddwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn unol â gofynion Trysorlys ei Mawrhydi, sy'n gyson ledled y sector cyhoeddus yn y DU. Gan mai gorwariant yn erbyn terfynau adnoddau refeniw blynyddol yw'r diffygion a ysgwyddir yn eu hanfod, o ran y ffordd yr ymdrinnir â hwy o safbwynt cyfrifyddu, yn dechnegol, nid oes unrhyw rwymedigaethau a ysgwyddir sy'n rhaid eu cofnodi mewn mantolen ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cytuno ar ddull adrodd gyda Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru sy'n golygu bod nodyn pwrpasol yng nghyfrifon byrddau Iechyd ar berfformiad yn erbyn dyletswyddau ariannol, sy'n nodi'r perfformiad yn erbyn y gofyniad i adennill costau dros gyfnod ariannol dreigl o dair blynedd.

Mae enghraifft o'r datgeliad hwn i'w gweld yn nodyn 2.1 (tudalen 20) o gyfrifon blynyddol Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda ar gyfer 2016-17 a osodwyd gerbron y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar 9 Mehefin 2017. Mae'r ddogfen i'w gweld yma <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/agr-ld11065/agr-ld11065-e.pdf>.

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda

Cynhaliwyd Adolygiad Seiliedig ar Sero i asesu unrhyw gostau "ychwanegol" sydd ynghlwm wrth ffurfwedd bresennol gwasanaethau gofal Iechyd Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn erbyn cymharydd priodol. Aseswyd yn yr adolygiad unrhyw "gost ychwanegol" yn y pedwar maes allweddol a ganlyn:

- Demograffeg
- Pellenigrwydd daearyddol
- Ffurfwedd y gwasanaeth (maint)
- Effeithlonrwydd

Yn y pedwar maes hwn, cafodd y costau eu hasesu a'u categorieiddio o dan y penawdau a ganlyn:

- Amhosibl eu hosgoi
- Y gellir ei reoli'n rhannol yn y tymor canolig i'r hirdymor
- Y gellir ei reoli yn y tymor byr i'r hirdymor

Mae canfyddiadau'r adolygiad seiliedig ar sero yn cael eu gwerthuso gan swyddogion a bydd cyngor yn cael ei ddatblygu maes o law.

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Goodall', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr Andrew Goodall

Eitem 2.3

Shan Morgan
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay AC
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

8 Tachwedd 2017

Anwyl Mr Ramsay,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 11 Hydref lle'r oeddech yn mynegi pryderon ynghylch Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn rhai argymhellion y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus yn rhannol neu mewn egwyddor.

Rwy'n ddiolchgar am adborth y Pwyllgor. Yn bendant, nid wyf am i Lywodraeth Cymru ymddangos fel petai'n esgus derbyn argymhellion os nad yw wirioneddol yn eu cefnogi. Byddai'n llawer gwell gen i, yn yr un modd â'r Pwyllgor, ein bod yn dweud yn glir o'r cychwyn nad ydym yn derbyn argymhelliad penodol lle mae hynny'n wir, ac inni amlinellu'r sail resymegol yn glir ar gyfer y penderfyniad hwnnw. Er fy mod yn gobeithio na fydd hyn yn ddigwyddiad cyffredin, rwy'n croesawu safbwynt y Pwyllgor bod hyn yn rhan bwysig o'r broses graffu. Ni fyddwn, felly, yn derbyn rhai argymhellion yn rhannol neu mewn egwyddor rhagor.

Gobeithiaf y bydd y Pwyllgor yn cydnabod y gallai achosion godi lle byddwn yn cytuno â'r Pwyllgor ynghylch bwriad argymhelliad, ond y byddwn yn credu y gallai fod yno ffordd fwy effeithiol o gyflawni'r bwriad hwnnw. Eto, byddwn yn disgwyl i gydweithwyr amlinellu'r rhesymau dros ffafrio ffordd wahanol. Gobeithiaf y bydd y Pwyllgor yn cytuno bod hyn yn dal i gyfrif fel ein bod yn derbyn yr argymhelliad yn gyffredinol.



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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.

Tudalen y pecyn 10

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

Byddem yn fodlon iawn cynnal trafodaethau anffurfiol â'r Pwyllgor, efallai drwy Swyddfa'r Clerc, ynghylch geiriad argymhellion drafft pe byddai hynny o gymorth. Wrth gwrs, ni fyddem yn bwriadu ceisio cymell y Pwyllgor i beidio â pharhau ag argymhelliad penodol. Byddem am ddarparu cyfle i drafod y ffordd orau o weithredu'r hyn sydd gan y Pwyllgor mewn golwg. Byddai hyn yn adlewyrchu arfer Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru sy'n ymgynghori â ni ynghylch ei argymhellion arfaethedig fel rhan o'i broses adrodd.

Rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at y Prif Weinidog a Chlerc Comisiwn y Cynulliad.

Yu gywir,

Shan Morgan

Shan Morgan

Ysgrifennydd Parhaol/ Permanent Secretary
Llywodraeth Cymru/ Welsh Government



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Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon



Community Housing Cymru response to the findings of the Wales Audit Office's report into The Welsh Government's Supporting People Programme

About us

Community Housing Cymru (CHC) is the representative body for housing associations and community mutuals in Wales, which are all not-for profit organisations. Our members provide over 158,000 homes and related housing services across Wales. In 2015/16, our members directly employed 9,109 people and spent nearly £2bn (directly and indirectly) in the economy, with 89% of this spend retained in Wales. Our members work closely with local government, third sector organisations and the Welsh Government to provide a range of services in communities across Wales.

Our objectives are to:

- Be the leading voice of the social housing sector.
- Promote the social housing sector in Wales.
- Promote the relief of financial hardship through the sector's provision of low cost social housing.
- Provide services, education, training, information, advice and support to members.
- Encourage and facilitate the provision, construction, improvement and management of low cost social housing by housing associations in Wales.

Please note, this is a brief response ahead of our full response to the public accounts committee's forthcoming consultation, in which we anticipate examining some of the key issues in greater depth.

Community Housing Cymru's members deliver support to all of the variety of groups that the report mentions, using Supporting People funding to pay, fully or in part, for this support. These services range from housing associations working with support providers to find housing solutions for armed services veterans and people with long-term learning disabilities to working directly to keep elderly people in safe, secure accommodation with appropriate levels of assistance. Without this programme, our members would be unable to provide crucial services, which benefit not only housing association tenants but wider society, with research indicating that every £1 invested in Supporting People services delivers £2.30 of savings to housing, health, social care and community safety, thus reducing pressure on a range of other public services. The programme helps over 60,000 of the most vulnerable and marginalised people to avoid homelessness and live independently in their communities. This includes older people, vulnerable young people, care leavers,



families fleeing domestic abuse, people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities, people with substance misuse problems and more. Often those in receipt of support have multiple needs.

The Wales Audit Office report raises some points around governance and measurement that need exploring. However, it is vital that this fund is protected due to the positive impact it has on people and services, and also because it encourages people to engage with education, training and employment opportunities.

CHC's response to the committee's inquiry must be considered in the context of the expected changes to the Supporting People programme. Welsh Government is working, via the funding flexibilities pathfinder project, to roll Supporting People into one grant, along with other Tackling Poverty funds, across 7 LAs and in the other LAs to provide 15% flexibility between grant streams. While CHC welcomes any approach which will allow for alignment of strategic priorities and reduction in bureaucracy, we remain concerned about what this move means for the long-term protection of funding for housing-related support in Wales. The report notes (2.43) "We found near unanimous support for the Welsh Government's decision to retain the ring-fencing" and we agree that this reflects the outlook of our members.

Following the release of the Detailed Draft Budget Proposals 2018-19, CHC understands that Welsh Government proposes to remove the budget ring fence for Supporting People in April 2019. Whatever form the Supporting People Programme takes in the future, Welsh housing associations need commitment that the services they provide to support vulnerable people will receive sufficient funding in the long-term and a sustainment of the ring-fence is the surest way to guarantee that commitment.

The context in which response to the WAO report is considered also includes a change in the manner in which funding for supported housing is delivered. The new funding model aims to secure supply of supported housing now and into the future; Welsh Government must ensure that the services, currently funded by SP, which are so often responsible for enabling people to move on from short-term supported accommodation, are appropriately funded in the long-term.

We are broadly supportive of the report's findings and recommendations, within the context noted above, and have responded below to the points we feel are most relevant to the work of our members.

We share the Auditor General's concerns (page 10, paragraph 10) as to the lack of explicit reference to prevention of homelessness in the programme's stated purpose and aims, though we are clear as to the transformative effect that Supporting People funded services have on enabling people to live independently and retain tenancies. The programme is unique among tackling poverty grants for its housing-related focus



and we call for this specialist focus on enabling people to access and maintain housing to be retained in future.

On the Auditor General's concerns about the RCC system (page 10, paragraph 13) we feel that these groups provide mixed outcomes from the perspective of housing representatives and we share the concerns about their impact. While there are examples of positive practice (see, for example the Gwent RCC's service user website), fundamentally the housing representatives on RCCs have limited powers to challenge the decisions made by local authorities. Although our members' input into RCCs has resulted in some examples of collaborative decision making, there are also instances we are aware of when the RCC has had no impact at all (or indeed not even been consulted) on local authority decision making with regard to SP procurement. As an example, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council cut Tenant Support Scheme funding for three of CHC's members by 50% in January 2016 without any reference to the RCC; without going into the detail of this decision, the fact that they felt comfortable doing so without reference to the RCC is indicative of the level of consideration that some LAs give to the RCCs.

To address the points made about outcomes (page 11, paragraphs 14 and 15), we agree that developing a solid understanding of the impact of the programme is vital and has been a weakness, to date. However, we feel that the SAIL data linkage study demonstrated some initially very positive findings as to the impact that SP services have on reducing usage of health services. CHC would welcome further investment in similar data linkage research into the impact of the programme on other statutory services. We are concerned that the Welsh Government's decisions about the future of the SP programme, with regard to the funding flexibilities pilots, will be made without consideration of the outcomes of the full, four-year study into the programme's impact on health services.

Members report detrimental effects on staff of the heavy burden of monitoring which is currently expected of them. While we are firmly in favour of effective monitoring, which demonstrates the impact that SP funded support is having, given that the report states that it is still "difficult to form a comprehensive judgment of the success of the Programme" then we would be supportive of any work which enables easier collation of monitoring evidence 'in the field'.

On the points raised about the ring-fence and concerns as to the impact of budget reduction (page 11, paragraph 16), we welcome the ring-fencing of the budget over the next two years, but our members need longer-term assurance to enable the delivery of efficient and effective services. The fact that the size of the fund has been frozen once again, means that as costs go up, providers of services will continue to have to find efficiencies. Our members have noted concerns, previously, as to the limited size of the fund leading to procurement teams moving from prioritising quality of service to cost of service, which ultimately risk reducing the programme's impact.



Another area of concern is how our members can meet the rising cost of the Living Wage from a frozen grant fund.

Response to the Report's Recommendations

Recommendation 1

As with the local authorities (page 11, paragraph 18) CHC's members would welcome longer term indicative budgets, to enable our members to better plan services and provide certainty to investment decisions. This situation would remain the case in light of any new arrangement for funding of what are currently SP services. We thus welcome the Auditor General's first recommendation of indicative 3-year allocations being provided at the earliest opportunity and the suggested introduction of 3-year rolling LA spend plans.

Recommendation 2

We agree with the second recommendation of the report, that Welsh Government review whether the Regional Collaborative Committee arrangements remain fit for purpose in the context of other collaborative governance arrangements, such as the new statutory public service boards. In future, we would like to see Public Service Boards placing housing at the centre of their strategies, with a focus on how this results in better quality health and patient care and we feel that a report as to the lessons learned through the experience of the RCCs (and of the data linkage study) would be of significant benefit to the future of the Public Service Boards.

Recommendation 3

We agree that Recommendation 3, regarding the new formula for distribution of funds, should take into account the shifting political priorities, which affect the programme. Particularly, the fund's role in preventing homelessness must be considered in this redistribution, with specific weight placed on addressing areas of significant homelessness need. The role of current SP projects' in preventing homelessness also needs to be taken into account when considering the distribution formula as effective current projects will already be reducing homelessness need in their area of operation.

However, the shifting of funds to areas of greater need should be considered cautiously: concentrating services in high-need areas may attract people with those needs to locations with high support provision, creating pockets of mental ill health, substance dependency etc. We need clarity on how this calculation will be carried out as well as long-term certainty for both providers and service users.

Welsh Government should demonstrate clearly, if funds are redistributed, that all alternative approaches have been considered; aligning current SP services with new



strategic objectives may be more effective than redistributing funds across geographical areas, for example. This can be agreed by amending a project's SLA. The sector's response to the 2010 Aylward Review demonstrates that this is achievable.

Finally, we are clear that our members' views must be considered, whether via SPNAB or the RCCs, in any work that is done on this issue.

Recommendation 4

We support recommendation 4, on re-tendering and the need to minimise any uncertainty on the part of either contract holder or tendering authority. Clarity on the reasons for re-tendering and the legitimacy of such decisions is crucial for our members.

There is concern from our members that unnecessary re-tendering can lead to the diminution of providers' ability to effectively deliver support, with procurement teams, in some cases, not looking beyond reduced up-front cost to the long-term cost savings of providing sufficiently well-resourced support, which will result in fewer costs to the public purse further down the line. We are thus clear that the reasons for any such decisions to be made by local authorities must be transparent and that RCCs should be consulted on them. Welsh Government guidance should be updated to consider sustainable procurement of services which are sufficiently resourced to deliver effective service and have sufficiently long contracts to affect meaningful change, in tandem with other, related services.

Recommendation 5

We are supportive of recommendation 5, that the Welsh Government should identify and clearly communicate the implications of major policy reforms for the programme. As noted, the future of the programme hangs in the balance and we need urgent clarity as to the long-term role it plays in Welsh Government's plans, with regard to tackling homelessness and enabling vulnerable members of society to maintain secure accommodation.

The forthcoming changes to the manner in which supported housing is funded are of clear interest in the context of SP and we would welcome confirmation from Welsh Government that the fund will continue to be ring-fenced in light of these changes.

Recommendation 6

Regarding recommendation 6, which addresses the issue of variety of cost between similar services, we urge a cautious approach when reviewing and comparing services; no two services are identical and due to the complex needs of service users the support provided is often tailored to the individual, so comparison of like



with like is difficult. Factors that will result in varied costs, such as location (in rural areas, a support worker spends more time travelling, for instance so delivery of the same level of support as an urban equivalent takes longer), should be taken into account when making any such comparison. Transparency on costs is important, however, and though disparities may be understood as being appropriate, they should be explained in an open manner which ultimately demonstrates value for money.

Recommendation 7

On the point made in the report about the introduction of the new outcomes framework, we re-state the point made earlier in our response: the current monitoring requirements are burdensome and apparently not providing sufficiently high quality data to emphatically demonstrate the worth of the programme (although we are in absolutely no doubt as to its effectiveness, nor its transformational impact on the lives of vulnerable people). In line with our earlier call for the programme's governing documents to explicitly reference SP's impact on homelessness we would value Welsh Government consideration of how SP is used to support the homelessness prevention agenda. While we have no doubt that this is the case, we are concerned that the fact that homelessness data collection focusses on the 56 day window of prevention noted in the legislation means that SP's vital contribution is missed. We absolutely agree that WG should work with partners to embed and clarify any new arrangements. We are clear that Housing Associations need to be fully consulted on proposed changes.

Recommendation 8

Regarding the concerns raised about the issues of eligibility for support of (and disparities in the level of support provided to) some people with learning disabilities, we are in agreement that RCCs should ensure that SP funded services are being appropriately used. If this is found not to be the case we would expect that RCCs work with Welsh Government, as appropriate, to ensure that suitable services are delivered instead.

**National Assembly for Wales
Public Accounts Committee
The Welsh Government's
Supporting People Programme**



8 November 2017

Dear members of the Public Accounts Committee,

Thank you for the invitation to give evidence before the committee on 20 November 2017. Please see below for supporting information in advance of the committee session.

1. About Cymorth Cymru

- 1.1** Cymorth Cymru is the umbrella body for providers of homelessness and housing-related support services in Wales. We have over 100 members, including charities, registered social landlords and local authorities who support people to avoid homelessness and live independently in their communities. Cymorth Cymru acts as the 'voice of the sector', influencing the development and implementation of policy and legislation that affects our members and the people they support. We work in partnership with members and other stakeholders to prevent and reduce homelessness and improve the quality of life for people who are marginalised or at risk of housing crisis across Wales.

2. Cymorth Cymru's initial response to WAO report

- 2.1** On 31 August 2017 Cymorth Cymru provided an initial response to the publication of the Wales Audit Office report about the Welsh Government's management of the Supporting People Programme:

"We are pleased that the Auditor General recognises that the Supporting People Programme 'provides important support to those who need it the most'. As the Welsh Government develops its budget for 2018/19, we urge Ministers to show leadership and protect SP funding so that it can continue to transform the lives of 60,000 vulnerable people each year.

"We welcome the report's recommendation that the Welsh Government should re-introduce indicative three year funding allocations, as the current annual funding cycle results in uncertainty and instability, limiting both local authorities and providers' ability to plan for the long term. Although we recognise the financial constraints on Ministers, we believe that supporting vulnerable people to avoid homelessness and live independently should be a priority and given longer term assurances."

"It is important to recognise that this report does not criticise the services provided by the many dedicated staff across Wales, but makes a series of points about the governance and management of the programme.

"We welcome recommendations to provide more clarity, consistency and certainty about government priorities, procurement processes and data collection. I frequently speak to people using these services and know that it transforms and saves lives. We are committed to working with our members and the Welsh Government to demonstrate this impact.

"The Wales Audit Office is right to recognise the ongoing threats of welfare reform, particularly the UK Government's plans to apply the Local Housing Allowance rate to supported accommodation. We urge the UK Government to abandon these plans, which put the viability of supported accommodation projects at risk."

3. WAO recommendations

3.1 Recommendation 1: In recent years, the Welsh Government has provided local authorities with annual budget allocations for the financial year ahead, without providing any indicative budgets for future years. Reflecting the recommendations that we have made in some of our previous reports, and while recognising the uncertainties facing the Welsh Government's own revenues, we recommend that:

- the Welsh Government re-introduce indicative three-year Supporting People funding allocations at the earliest opportunity to assist local authorities in their planning; and
- at the same time, consider the merits of moving to three-year annual rolling local authority spend plans, to assist local authorities in planning services and to allow greater scrutiny by Regional Collaborative Committees.

3.1.1 We strongly agree with this recommendation. Annual funding allocations create huge uncertainty for a sector that is responsible for providing support to 60,000 of the most vulnerable people in Wales. Each year, local authority teams, support providers and landlords wait to hear whether they will receive the funding they need to continue running these services. This can hinder long term, strategic planning for all stakeholders at a time when welfare reform, homelessness and increasingly complex needs pose significant challenges to the most vulnerable people in Wales.

3.1.2 The uncertainty associated with annual budgets also has a negative impact on the wellbeing of frontline staff. This can result in skilled and committed support workers, team leaders and senior managers leaving the sector for employment that gives them and their families more certainty. Additionally, this uncertainty can impact directly on the people using services, as it increases the likelihood of changes to the service and their support workers. This was reflected by people at our service user engagement events in January 2017, who spoke of concerns about funding cuts and losing staff members with whom they had built trusting relationships. Given that stability can be vital to a person's recovery, the increased certainty offered by three year indicative funding and spend plans could also be beneficial to the people these services support.

3.1.3 While we appreciate that the Welsh block grant is dependent on UK Government allocations, we believe Ministers could and should give longer term assurances to Programmes such as Supporting People. This would provide more certainty and stability, enabling longer term strategic planning by both commissioners and providers, which could deliver better outcomes for vulnerable people.

3.2 Recommendation 2: The Welsh Government is proposing greater regional planning and delivery of services as part of its reforming local government policy. However, the Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committees have struggled to deliver at the scale and pace the Welsh Government would have liked. We recommend that the Welsh Government:

- identify and apply lessons learned from the experience of the Regional Collaborative Committees to inform its proposals for local government reform; and
- review whether the Regional Collaborative Committee arrangements remain fit for purpose in the context of other collaborative governance arrangements, such as the new statutory public service boards and its wider plans for regional working in local government.

3.2.1 We recognise that some Regional Collaborative Committees (RCCs) operate more effectively than others, but believe that the existing structure is of value and should be strengthened rather than removed altogether. With the UK Government proposals to devolve housing benefit funding for supported accommodation, and Welsh Government plans for further regionalisation, this may be the appropriate time to consider strengthening the powers and responsibility of RCCs to plan and commission the support and rent elements of Supporting People services on a regional basis. Strengthening the powers and responsibilities of RCCs may also help them to become more effective in their efforts to facilitate regional planning and commissioning.

3.2.2 **Housing expertise:** Retaining housing and homelessness expertise in the regional planning and commissioning of Supporting People services is absolutely essential, especially when homelessness is becoming an increasing challenge throughout the UK. Although RCCs vary in effectiveness, it is recognised that the housing expertise within their membership is a key strength.

3.2.3 **Links with Public Service Boards:** We would value stronger links between Regional Collaborative Committees and Public Service Boards (PSBs) and would also welcome an increased focus on housing by PSBs. However, PSBs have very broad ranging responsibilities and we therefore believe that the planning and commissioning of SP services must remain firmly rooted in bodies/structures dedicated to housing and homelessness. Another challenge is that the Public Service Boards are currently set up along local authority boundaries – this seems entirely out of step with the Welsh Government's regional agenda. If PSBs were regional, there could be a stronger link between RCCs and PSBs; RCCs could even report to PSBs in the future.

3.3 Recommendation 3: The Supporting People National Advisory Board has recognised the need for a new formula to help redistribute Programme funds to geographical areas of greatest need. The Welsh Government is also consulting on the strategic objectives for the Programme. We recommend that, once it has finalised the new strategic objectives for the Programme, the Welsh Government prioritise developing a new funding formula to redistribute funding in a way that most effectively delivers those objectives. In doing so, we recommend the Welsh Government give consideration to any transitional arrangements and wider policy developments that may impact on the Programme.

3.3.1 We believe that funding should be distributed to areas of greatest need, and that this should be based on robust needs assessment rather than historical spend. It should also ensure that client groups which are less 'politically popular' receive the support services

they need. We understand and appreciate the Welsh Government's decision to pause redistribution during a period of cuts, as this would have led to some areas facing a 'double whammy' of cuts. However, it can also be argued that the delay in redistribution means that other areas continue to face funding shortages that impact on their ability to meet vulnerable people's needs.

- 3.3.2 Any change to the funding formula must be done in collaboration with the sector and should be mindful of any unintended consequences such as the sudden removal of services for particular client groups. At a time when welfare reform and a lack of housing is resulting in increased homelessness, it would be preferable for redistribution to take place within the context of increased SP funding. This would enable more preventative service to be funded without decreasing existing service provision.

3.4 Recommendation 4: The Welsh Government's current and draft revised guidance on the procurement of Supporting People services is potentially misleading as it implies that retendering need only take place where a service review has found the service to be deficient. We recommend that:

- the Welsh Government's ongoing reviews of local authorities' management of the Programme should examine whether contracts are being extended in accordance with Public Contract Regulations; and
- in revising its Programme guidance, the Welsh Government redraft its advice on contract procurement to avoid the scope for any misinterpretation about when to retender for services, and to clearly articulate the rules around contract extensions.

- 3.4.1 We would welcome clear guidance on the issue of commissioning and procurement that clarifies the legal requirements of Supporting People commissioners but also encourages good practice. Reviewing and recommissioning schemes is an essential part of local authorities' responsibilities, and we know that they are under pressure. However, our members have shared concerns over recent years about some examples of:

- a) Prioritising cost over quality in tender evaluation processes. This risks a race to the bottom which compromises quality and outcomes for people using services.
- b) The trend towards commissioning fewer, much larger contracts, which inevitably results in the loss of some providers - and therefore skills and expertise. Where local authorities have chosen to award a single, large contract there is a risk that any problems encountered by the service will affect all clients and - other providers may no longer exist or be capable of stepping in to provide support.
- c) A lack of engagement with providers about what services are needed and what is possible/viable in advance of procurement. This can lead to the wrong services being commissioned or inadequate funds being available to deliver the service.
- d) A lack of meaningful involvement of people who use services.

- e) A lack of clarity about TUPE processes and the impact on existing staff when contracts are awarded to different providers.

3.4.2 Supporting People services are delivered to some of the most vulnerable people in Wales and the unintended consequences of some practices need to be considered.

3.5 Recommendation 5: There have been a number of notable policy changes in recent years that affect the Programme. However, we have identified concerns about the scale of change and the way it has been communicated. In addition, other developments will have an impact on the Programme, for example, the Welsh Government's plans for local government reform and UK government reform of housing benefit. We recommend that the Welsh Government should identify and clearly communicate the implications of such reforms for the Programme.

3.5.1 **Welfare reform:** The UK Government's plans for the funding of supported accommodation have been a significant concern for the sector over the past two years. However, the Welsh Government has been extremely collaborative in their approach to dealing with the possible consequences for Wales and has actively involved representatives from the sector in their policy development process. Cymorth Cymru, Community Housing Cymru and the Welsh Local Government Association are key members of the Welsh Government's stakeholder steering group, along with additional representatives of local authorities, support providers, landlords, older people's provision and domestic abuse refuge providers. Welsh Government officials have engaged positively with events run by Cymorth Cymru and been very receptive to the issues and concerns raised by people working in the supported accommodation sector. The Welsh Government has also been engaged in conversation with the sector about other welfare reforms, such as the UK Government's plans to reduce housing benefit to people under the age of 35.

3.5.2 **Local Government reorganisation:** The lack of clarity regarding local government reorganisation continues to pose challenges to organisations working across a variety of sectors in Wales. The Welsh Government has been discussing this issue for many years, encouraging regional working and voluntary mergers - but very little progress appears to have been made. Our members often feel frustrated by the lack of clarity resulting from different approaches by different Ministers. It is not our place to specify whether the Welsh Government should force local authorities to merge or not – but it would be useful if they could make more progress than they have over the last few years. Our members who operate in several local authority areas often express frustration about the variation in process and practice between different local authorities and would welcome more consistency.

3.5.3 **Other Welsh Government policy and legislation:** With regards to changes in Welsh Government policy and legislation, this is actively discussed by Welsh Government officials and the sector on a frequent basis. The Cabinet Secretary/Minister responsible for SP addresses the Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) on an annual

basis and outlines his or her intentions for the sector in the context of Welsh Government policy and legislation. The implications of policy and legislation such as local government re-organisation, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act and welfare reform are frequently discussed at SPNAB, the Strategic Finance and Research Group and the Regional Collaborative Committees. Cymorth Cymru also runs a series of events throughout the year which include active participation from Welsh Government officials during presentations, discussions and workshops on Welsh policy and legislation such as the Housing Wales Act, Social Services Act, Adverse Childhood Experiences and welfare reform.

3.6 Recommendation 6: While the Welsh Government has identified that there are widespread variations in overall service costs, further analysis is required to understand the reasons for that variation. We recommend that the Welsh Government work with local authorities to examine in more detail whether there are significant variations in the costs of delivering Supporting People services of a similar type and duration.

3.6.1 It is essential that all stakeholders ensure value for money in the delivery of the most effective services to people who need them. However, it is important that the Welsh Government examines why there are variations in costs. Supporting People services vary considerably in order to meet the needs of a variety of client groups, which often include people with needs that vary in complexity and severity. A multi-faceted, flexible and responsive approach is one of the strengths, but this means that costs will vary within and across client groups. Any examination of cost variations must take this into account.

3.7 Recommendation 7: There remain concerns about data quality in the current Outcomes Framework, but with revised data collection arrangements being proposed. We recommend that the Welsh Government work with its partners to ensure that, once introduced, any new arrangements are clearly understood by providers and embedded as part of contractual arrangements.

3.7.1 We are acutely aware of the positive impact that Supporting People services have on people's lives. We often visit projects across Wales and see first-hand how these schemes change and save lives.

3.7.2 For the past few years we have organised service user engagement events on behalf of the Supporting People National Advisory Board. In January 2017 we spoke to approximately 175 people in Newport, Rhyl and Carmarthen about their experiences of Supporting People services. When asked 'Where do you think you'd be if you hadn't been able to access the SP service?' many replied that they would be dead, homeless, sectioned or suicidal. You can read the short report about these engagement events [here](#).

3.7.3 However, we agree that formal data collection to evidence the impact of Supporting People services needs to improve. Our members see the positive impact of their services every day, but are concerned that this is not evidenced clearly. Delays in consulting on

the new outcomes framework has frustrated providers, who are keen to demonstrate the impact of their schemes on people's lives and public services.

3.7.4 Homelessness prevention: In particular, we need to better evidence the impact of Supporting People services on the prevention of homelessness in Wales. The very nature of the Programme – supporting people experiencing homelessness or in need of housing-related support – means that it has a considerable impact on this area. For example, we know that every supported accommodation scheme puts a roof over people's heads and supports them to either remain in those communities, or move on to independent living with their own tenancy. We also know that floating support prevents people from losing their tenancy, or helps them to access a new tenancy. If the Programme is supporting approximately 60,000 people every year, then it would be reasonable to make the assumption that it is preventing homelessness for many thousands of people. However, the extent of SP's contribution to homelessness prevention is not captured in the Welsh Government's official statistics. Data collection varies between different teams in local authorities and many SP interventions happen in advance of the 56 day statutory duty to help prevent homelessness – on which the homelessness prevention statistics are based.

3.7.5 Impact on health services: Despite concerns about data collection, the SAIL data linkage project has provided some very interesting data about the impact of Supporting People interventions on the use of health services in Wales. The feasibility study indicated that interaction with Supporting People services resulted in a reduction in the use of GP services, A&E and emergency hospital admissions. The subsequent project is currently gathering and analysing data on a much greater scale from every local authority in Wales. The sector has welcomed the Welsh Government's commitment to this work.

3.8 Recommendation 8: Welsh Government reviews, and more detailed work at a regional level by two of the Regional Collaborative Committees, have highlighted some issues with the eligibility of support for people with learning disabilities and differences in the level of support provided. We recommend that the Welsh Government encourage all Regional Collaborative Committees to review arrangements for support for people with learning disabilities through the Programme and work with the committees to manage any potential negative consequences for service provision.

3.8.1 The Supporting People Programme should be funding housing-related support services. It is therefore absolutely right that the Welsh Government, Regional Collaborative Committees and local authorities do all they can to ensure that this funding is spent as intended. However, if any existing services for vulnerable people are found to be receiving SP funding for non-housing related support, the Welsh Government must ensure that the appropriate funder steps in to fund the service. Vulnerable people must continue to get the support and care they need to live independently in their communities. At a time when all budgets are under pressure, providers are concerned that any removal of SP funding may not be replaced.

4. Welsh budget: Supporting People funding

- 4.1** Although this inquiry is focused on the WAO report and not the draft budget, we feel it is important to raise our concerns about the possible future funding of the Supporting People Programme.
- 4.2** We are deeply concerned that the Supporting People budget line has disappeared from the Welsh draft budget for 2019/20 and appears to have been merged with funding streams that have no direct link to homelessness and housing-related support. The removal of the ring-fence has had a disastrous impact on many Supporting People services in England and we fear that over time, this could happen in Wales. It removes all accountability from Ministers about the amount they spend on housing-related support and risks the loss of vital services that support some of the most vulnerable people in Wales.
- 4.3** It is likely that the resulting merged grant will sit outside of the housing directorate of Welsh Government and housing departments of local authorities, resulting in the loss of housing expertise at a time when homelessness is an increasing challenge and concern. The focus on this issue will be diluted and the funding for SP client groups (particularly those who are less 'politically popular') could be lost, resulting in increased homelessness, particularly for people with the most complex needs.
- 4.4** In addition, the anticipated devolution of housing benefit funding for supported accommodation means that this is the wrong time to remove the ring-fence around the Supporting People budget and dismantle the mechanisms for distributing the support element of supported accommodation funding. Supported housing is in a state of flux and it is vital that Supporting People funding is maintained alongside the housing benefit element to ensure stability for landlords and lenders.
- 4.5** An alternative solution: While we understand the Welsh Government's intention to rationalise grant funding streams, we believe that placing Supporting People in a budget line with non-housing programmes is a huge mistake. However, we have made it clear to Welsh Government Ministers and officials that we are happy to engage constructively and discuss grant alignment in the context of other homelessness and housing-related support funding streams, such as the homelessness prevention grant and the devolution of housing benefit funding for supported accommodation. We believe that this is a much more sensible and appropriate approach to grant alignment within the context of housing and homelessness.

We look forward to seeing you on 20 November,

Katie Dalton
Director, Cymorth Cymru

Rhian Stone
Chair, Cymorth Cymru