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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear all

On the 20th March 2019, we held an event in Cardiff to take stock of how Public Services Boards (PSB) and Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) are working together in practice. We would like to thank everyone that attended the event for sharing experiences, and participating in the rich discussions which took place throughout the day.

The two pieces of legislation which underpin the Boards are complementary. The Social Services and Well Being Act focuses on the health and social care needs of individuals in a region to promote their individual well-being. The Well-being of Future Generations Act addresses the wider determinants of well-being including social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.

Both Acts provide us with a common set of whole system, cross sector principles, namely; long-termism, prevention, collaboration, integration and involvement. However, while the Boards have shared areas of interest, they do have distinct roles, and different purposes and this is reflected in their work and membership.

The joint event emphasised the importance of Boards seeking to align their work – so they complement rather than duplicate each other. The event was independently facilitated, and we have now reflected on the key themes and observations from the day.

The key message from the day was clear - the way that Boards arrange their work so that it complements rather than duplicates is best considered and determined locally, where the needs and requirements of the local population are best understood.

The extent to which RPBs and PSBs have interacted has varied across Wales. The consensus on the day was that there is not a single model that fits all. There was also discussion that getting this right had proved more challenging for some regions than others.

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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.

However, partners did convey a clear intention to build stronger and clearer links between the Boards in the future.

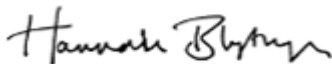
Partners were positive that this was achievable as in many areas there is already good progress in developing compatible assessments, plans and ways of working. There was also a clear view that any further legislation or guidance in this area be kept to a minimum, and that the focus should now be on delivery.

Both boards are already in a good position to build on improved communication and alignment given their cross over in relation to their membership. Both include representation from health, local government and third sector and a number of these representatives are members of both boards. We can learn from such approaches to develop a seamless link between the boards' priorities and activities.

Welsh Government is committed to providing the most effective support to both boards enabling them to improve their alignment through straightforward means. To support this process the Welsh Government confirms its commitment to:


- supporting the work already underway to improve communication and alignment internally and with the Boards;
- scheduling regular meetings between the chairs of the PSBs and RPBs, and expand these discussions to the wider bodies which support the delivery of the Boards across Wales in order to share further learning and raise the awareness of different successful approaches; and
- establishing a joint development programme for members of both Boards focusing on the demands of operating as part of multi- agency partnerships.

In recognition of this we expect and encourage both RPBs and PSBs to work together and provide a coherent local and regional response to the wellbeing needs of individuals, which will include preventing poor health and wellbeing in our communities.



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