



Regional Implementation Leads
Social Services and Integration

1 November 2017

Dear Colleagues

As you are aware, the Minister for Social Services and Public Health, Rebecca Evans AM, made a statement to the National Assembly on 10 October regarding integration and partnership working between health and social services.

Whilst the Minister recognised that significant work has already been undertaken to deliver integrated and collaborative services, she made clear the importance of the requirement to establish pooled funds in relation to care home accommodation functions. Once again she set out her expectation that pooled funds be established jointly on the regional level between health boards and all local authorities within the health board partnership area.

I attach [here](#) a link to the Record of Proceedings as it may be useful for you to see the debate in its entirety - including the views expressed by members of other parties - if you haven't already had the chance to do so.

I hope you will see from the statement that the Minister does not underestimate the challenges facing partners in establishing pooled funds by April 2018. For this reason there is a clear commitment in the statement for the Welsh Government to support partnership boards in meeting this requirement, something which I feel reflects the discussions we had in City Hall on 4 October. You will also have noted the intentions of the Minister to consider more direct intervention at the start of the 2019-20 if by this time she does not feel this provision has been adequately implemented.

It is very important therefore that we effectively utilise the next 18 months to work together to ensure there are joint commissioning processes in place supported by pooled funds. I am keen that we work closely with you on this and bring in extra support and learning where appropriate. I want this to start by us co-designing the package of support and would like the first step to be for regional implementation leads to join with Welsh Government as a group to consider and agree the range of help that is necessary.

Given the likely broad nature of this conversation, I appreciate that you may wish to involve other colleagues from within your region. To ensure that any working group does not become too big however, I would ask that each region provide a maximum of two representatives. As discussions progress, we can consider how to involve any extra, expert support as needed.

I would like the first meeting to take place on **Friday 24 November 2017 between 1pm and 4pm in City Hall, Cardiff**. We are currently in the process of preparing an agenda for discussion based on the issues already raised in the letter each region sent to the letter and our previous discussion in City Hall. We can also use the first meeting to agree the frequency and location of future meetings.

Please send confirmation of attendance to my colleague Jan Firby (jan.firby@gov.wales) by 9 November 2017. I hope you will make every effort to ensure your region is represented.

I look forward to working with you all as we move forward on this agenda together.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Hall
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Social Services & Integration