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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



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Minister for Social Services and Public Health

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DC/VG/00054/17

Ruth Marks  
Chief Executive  
Wales Council for Voluntary Action  
Baltic House  
Mount Stuart Square  
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24 July 2017

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for meeting with us on 6 July.

You began with a reminder of the principles of co-production which usefully underpinned our discussions. You then went on to present the paper you have worked with officials on about the two priority areas you identified of prevention and co-production in service design and commissioning and procurement.

### **Priority 1 – Prevention**

We discussed why you want to focus on social prescribing and it was interesting to hear about the case study which illustrated the value of what is available from within the community as well as more formal care and support provided by the third sector which people will access and be referred to.

We agreed the need to ensure third sector organisations are involved in the planning and coordination of social prescribing models. You will continue to share examples of good practice with officials and agree how these can be systematically shared.

You emphasised the need for co-production to be at the heart of social prescribing models and not simply a method for signposting and referral. You underlined the need to have a common understanding of what social prescribing is in practice and to ensure there is a consistency in approach.

We discussed the social prescribing pilot and how the wellbeing bond might complement this work.

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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.

We touched upon the plan to develop a cross Government strategy to tackle loneliness and unwanted isolation which will further emphasise the importance of social prescribing models in systematically linking people with community services and support.

### **Priority 2 – Co-production in commissioning and procurement of integrated health and social care**

We discussed co-production and the good work that is being done to further this important agenda. We remain committed to co-production in delivering care and support services. We know there are some difficult choices ahead in terms of resourcing and are committed to continuing the dialogue with Local Government about how these choices are made.

At the meeting we recognised the ongoing implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Specifically, the supporting code of practice includes a requirement to establish forums to encourage a flourishing social value sector. We recognised that these forums also present an opportunity to empower the third sector to better engage with regional partnership boards. Our officials will work with WCVA and the Wales Cooperative Centre to identify and promote best practice in relation to these Social Value Forums.

The meeting we referred to with Chairs of regional partnership boards has taken place and the action to raise the issue of how they can ensure the effectiveness of social value forums' has been discussed.

Looking ahead, we would encourage you to continue your regular dialogue with our relevant officials to move forward on the challenges we discussed. On co-production, work can be done to identify ways to provide practical support to regional implementation teams to develop social value forums. There are opportunities on social prescribing to identify and share examples of good practice to inform the design and delivery of social prescribing models.

We would like to thank everybody who attended the meeting for their time and contributions and look forward to being briefed on progress with the joint actions outlined in the paper at our next meeting.

Yours sincerely,



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