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Date/Dyddiad: 18th July 2016

County Councillor Peter Farley
Chair of the Adults Select Committee
Monmouthshire County Council

Dear Paul,

Re: Public Service Board Select Committee, 28th June 2016

I am writing to you as the Chair for the time being of the Public Service Board for Monmouthshire to bring to your attention a number of points raised by Members in the first meeting of the PSB Select Committee on 28th June.

With regard to the profile of the PSB, members of the Committee believe that there should be collective responsibility for shared objectives and that the PSB needs to be taken seriously as a partnership which is seen to be working to deliver outcomes for the citizens of Monmouthshire. Noting the absence of some partners from the first meeting of the Board, the Committee recommends that the governance arrangements for the PSB include the requirement that a deputy attends in the absence of a named member.

With regard to resources, the Committee asks what assessment has been made of the capacity of officers to support the work of the Board and whether there is sufficient resource available? The Committee is concerned that thus far the PSB appears to be supported only from within MCC with the risk that it will be seen as the responsibility of the County Council and not the joint responsibility of its partners.

With regard to the relationship between the PSB and the Select Committee, as the work goes forward the Committee will not require attendance by the Board at our meetings but will invite attendance as and when required. The Committee will be monitoring the progress of the PSB, beginning with the Well Being Assessment and to this end links will be tabled in Select Committee agendas to the agendas and minutes of PSB meetings. The Committee asks that the PSB agrees a brief action list at their meetings to assist our monitoring of progress.

With regard to the longer term perspective that should inform the work of the PSB, members of the Committee are aware of the Future Trends work undertaken in Newport and Swansea. We are interested in the possibility of similar work being undertaken in Monmouthshire and in being involved in such work.

The next meeting of the PSB Select Committee will be held on 11th October 2016 at 10.00 a.m. in County Hall. We intend to invite the Chair of the PSB and the Future Generations Commissioner, Sophie Howe, to attend this meeting.

As you know the responsibility of chairing the PSB Select Committee is being undertaken jointly by the Chairs of the existing four Select Committees. We have agreed that to provide continuity, the Chair of each meeting will act as a focal point until the following meeting. Accordingly, I will be pleased to receive your response to this letter and to discuss any points with you as you may wish.

Kind regards,

Peter Farley
Chair, Adults Select Committee
& Co-Chair, PSB Select Committee

c.c. Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner