

P-04-502 Wellbeing Centre for Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 08.05.14

Dear Stephen

I am writing in response to William Powell AM Chair of the Petitions Committee. I have also had a copy of the letter from the Minister for Health and Social Services, Mark Drakeford AM to the Petitions Committee.

Firstly I would like to thank the Chair and the Petitions Committee for considering the issues through the petitions process.

In answer to the points made in the various items of correspondence, I would like to say that for the last 4 years I have been an active member of the Public Health Wales All Wales Mental Health Promotion Network Advisory Board and have worked with some very passionate and forward thinking individuals on delivering the Network's terms of reference – which I would suggest are tailored more towards mental health than wider, community wellbeing.

I have also learned that this particular network will be merged with a number of other Public Health Wales Networks to form the All Wales Public Health Network in the very near future – which challenges the idea that the All Wales Mental Health Promotion Network's work will continue to unchanged on this agenda.

It seems to me that there has been a considerable shift in Wales away from networks and nodes that identify good practice in project delivery; and provide the forums that develop policies that are 'fit for purpose.' Organisations in Wales are having to focus their efforts on project delivery, because that is what their funding is telling them to do. As organisations get more involved in delivery they become less skilled at evaluation; reflection and ironically learning how to deliver a better service. I am concerned that this will result in unnecessary duplication of effort; the waste of limited financial resources and ultimately services that don't deliver what their users need.

That said, I totally understand and support the Welsh Government's desire to champion delivery and change on the ground, but I do feel there is a role for evaluation, reflection and challenge. And I believe a Wellbeing Centre for Wales could help do that.

If as the Chair, you feel that the Petitions Committee would benefit from a discussion about wellbeing and what it means for the National Assembly's activities, I would be more than happy to present to the Committee. I have recently finished wellbeing evaluation's for the Arts Council in Wales; World Wide Fund for Nature in Namibia; the HR department in Cardiff City Council and Port Talbot Young People's Services - where wellbeing is the common theme that unites them all.

Thank you again for your time and consideration on the issue of a Wellbeing Centre for Wales. If I can help at all, please by all means let me know.

Kind regards

Dafydd Thomas

Cyfarwyddwr Gweithredol - Executive Director Lles Cymru Wellbeing Wales