

# Health and Social Care Committee

## Consultation on terms of reference for inquiry into residential care for older people

### RC9 ToR – Seren group

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing with reference to the Health and Social Care Committee: consultation on inquiry terms of reference on behalf of the Seren group.

We would like to propose the following suggested additions to the terms of reference:

#### **Suggested terms of reference**

To examine the provision of residential care in Wales and the ways in which it can meet the current and future needs of older people, including:

- the process by which older people enter residential care and the availability and accessibility of alternative services
- the capacity of the residential care sector to meet the demand for services from older people in terms of staffing resources and the number of places and facilities.
- the quality of residential care services and the experiences of service users and their families; the effectiveness of services at meeting the diversity of need amongst older people; and the management of care home closures.
- the effectiveness of the regulation and inspection arrangements for residential care, including the scope for increased scrutiny of service providers' financial viability.
- new and emerging models of care provision
- the balance of public and independent sector provision, and alternative funding and ownership models, such as those offered by the cooperative and mutual sector

**We agree with the proposed terms of reference but would like to add the following:**

- + Assess the financial strength of existing residential care providers & their longer term viability in the context of public service cuts – identifying any key risk factors for the future (e.g. small independent care homes).

+ the degree to which residential service models match the aspirations and expectations of people nearing (rather than of) older age (e.g. 50+) in terms of their long term future

+ how well existing residential services are meeting national outcomes standards.

+ the degree to which older people in residential care feel able to influence the services provided to them

**Judith North**

Corporate Director **reach**