

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Simon Thomas AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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Copied to: Deputy Minister for Social Services

30 June 2014

Dear Simon

During Oral Questions on 18 June, you asked for further details regarding the Intermediate Care Fund and how this fund will work in rural areas and support the wider integration agenda.

The announcement of the Welsh Government's Final Budget for 2014-15, following agreement with Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Liberal Democrats, included the establishment of an Intermediate Care Fund. I provided some information about this Fund in my joint Written Statement of 10 December with the Minister for Housing and Regeneration and the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

This is a one-year fund for 2014-15 and includes £35 million revenue in the Local Government budget (of which £5m is for Regional Collaboration Fund projects) and £15 million capital in the Housing and Regeneration budget. It will be managed as a single coordinated fund to maximise the support for people requiring intermediate care through a coherent package of measures. This funding will be used to encourage collaborative working across social care, health and housing, with third and independent sector partners.

The Fund will drive forward and develop new models of delivering sustainable integrated services which maintain and increase people's well-being and independence. It will promote improved care coordination across social services and health to support people to remain safely at home or in the community setting. It will also help protect and manage care and give people the support they require, particularly for the most vulnerable in our population.

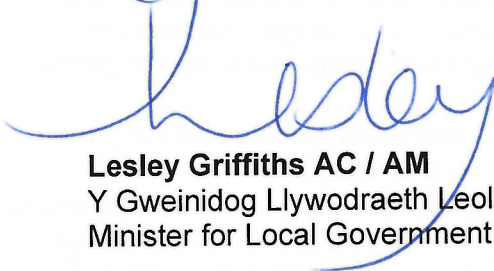
Local Authorities are leading the development of proposals across six regions (North Wales, Mid and West, Cwm Taf, Gwent, Cardiff and Vale, Western Bay) with other Authorities, Local Health Boards, and with third and independent sector partners. Many of their programmes will provide or enhance existing solutions to issues commonly found across Wales. I recognise needs will, however, vary within those regions and some proposals have reflected this. The proposals have been developed and should be delivered in a way to meet the needs of people within their particular area. I would expect this to take account of issues such as rurality. Examples of the projects which will be taken forward through the Intermediate Care Fund include:

- Single point of access to co-ordinate the range of services available across the public sector and third sector to support older people to maintain their independence at home.
- Specialist accommodation teams working with health and social care to develop appropriate housing responses for older people at point of admission and discharge.
- An integrated @home service which will focus on maintaining independence at home and avoiding hospital admission.
- Developing and piloting 7-day services to focus on admission prevention and early discharge support.
- Third sector support to develop twilight services during immediate home from hospital period.
- 24/7 Health and Social care support service - provision of overnight planned and crisis intervention support service delivered by appropriately trained generic support workers, in order to avoid untimely admissions to hospital and residential care.

Regions have submitted proposals which they are confident can be delivered during 2014-15. We will be monitoring delivery closely throughout the year and will take action accordingly if there are issues or slippage.

I am copying this letter to the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

Regards



**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

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