

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Councillor Rosemarie Harris
Leader
Powys County Council
cllr.rosemarie.harris@powys.gov.uk

17 July 2020

Dear Councillor Rosemarie Harris

Thank you for your email of Friday 3 July which included Powys County Council's (the Council) proposed set of alternative arrangements to replace the formal Improvement and Assurance Board (chaired by Jack Straw), following Sean Harriss' external review of the Board and support arrangements in March.

I was extremely encouraged with the findings and recommendations of the review, in particular the recognition of the progress your Council has made since the Improvement and Assurance Board was established in 2018. This, combined with the growth of capacity within the Council, means your organisation is now much better placed to drive its own improvement.

As you are aware, Sean Harriss concluded that the Improvement and Assurance Board should remain in place for a further six months in a revised form while your Council developed and put in place alternative arrangements. I have considered your alternative arrangements and can confirm that I am content with your proposals as I am confident, like you, that they will enable your Council to effectively manage its own improvement. I understand you will now approach the transition phase with the expectation that the Improvement and Assurance Board will meet formally for the last time around the end of September / early October and that the Social Services' Improvement Conference should take place prior to that final meeting. I also note the conditions you set out for this change to your local governance and performance arrangements, as set out in your email. Jack Straw will also present his final Chair's report at the final meeting and I look forward to receiving that report.

Finally I commend you, your Council and the Improvement and Assurance Board for the significant amount of progress which has been made in the last couple of years. I wish you well on your Council led improvement journey.

Yours sincerely

Julie James AS/MS

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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.

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