

Powys County Council Support

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2019

Powys County Council Improvement and Assurance Board

Terms of Reference

1. The Improvement and Assurance Board (the Board) was established in March 2018 to provide challenge and support to Powys County Council (the Council). It should also oversee any formal support being provided to the Council.
2. The Terms of Reference has been updated to reflect the outcome of a proportionate review of the Board, which was undertaken by the independent Chair, the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council and Welsh Government officials in September 2019. Its focus was to consider the Board's remit, future approach and membership.

Purpose and Remit

3. The overall purpose and remit of the Board is to assist the Leader in driving forward the required change and improvement in the local authority.
4. Specifically the Board will:
 - Continue to support and provide assurance to the Director for Social Services in regards to all social services functions, in particular the delivery of the respective Improvement Plans for children and adults.
 - Oversee, monitor and support the progress made by the Council's Education Service in terms of addressing each of the recommendations made by Estyn in their inspection report of September 2019.
 - Advise the Welsh Minister and Welsh Government officials regularly on progress and make, if necessary, recommendations for further support or modification to the existing support package.
5. In addition, the Board will, up to every four months, monitor progress made in relation to the Council's corporate function, in particular transformation and improvement activity.

Membership

6. The members of the Board have been approved by both the Minister and Leader of the Council. The Chair will be independent of the Council.
7. Board will continue to consist of:
 - External independent Chair – Jack Straw
 - Leader of the Council
 - Deputy Leader of the Council (and another Cabinet member)
 - Leader of the opposition (and another opposition representative)
8. With the addition of External members
 - Social Services representative - Phil Hodgson (former sector led support Adviser for the Council)
 - Education representative – to be confirmed

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9. Nominees from the Welsh Government, WLGA, CIW, WAO and as Estyn will continue to be entitled to attend all meetings of the Board as observers.
10. Advisers providing specific sector led support to the Council will be expected to attend meetings of the Board to provide an update on progress in relation to their area of support.
11. Relevant Cabinet portfolio holders and respective senior officers will be expected to attend meetings of the Board to provide updates in relation to their area of responsibility.

Reporting

12. The Board should advise the Council's cabinet regularly of their findings and conclusions. This should be done, via report from the Chair, on a quarterly basis with the exception that any developments within the Council which require immediate action will be highlighted as an urgent update. These reports should be copied to the Welsh Ministers.

Status

13. Although advisory in nature, the Board will play a fundamental role in the Council's transformation and improvement.

Meetings

11. The Board should meet on a monthly basis.