

Julie Morgan AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Andrew RT Davies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 February 2020

Dear Andrew,

I am responding to an issue you raised with the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd during the Business Statement on 28 January, concerning a report relating to older people's accommodation.

The independent report by the Housing Learning and Improvement Network (Housing LIN) was commissioned by the Minister for Housing and Local Government to support the work of the Inter-Ministerial group on Paying for Social Care. The Housing LIN has worked with many local authorities in Wales and England on forecasting future demand for older people's housing, including the West Wales and Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Boards.

The report, *Assessment of the demand for specialist housing and accommodation for older people in Wales*, is in the process of being disseminated to Regional Partnership Boards, local authorities and other stakeholders. The assessment has been published on the Welsh Government website:

<https://gov.wales/independent-report-accommodation-older-people>

The report identifies a likely demand in the future for additional units of housing for older people (such as contemporary sheltered housing, age-designated housing and retirement housing); housing with care (such as extra care); nursing care beds (i.e. residential care with nursing); and intermediate care accommodation (such as step-up/step-down). However, in relation to residential care homes, the report finds there will be no net need for additional residential care beds by 2035.

The Housing LIN acknowledge a number of limitations to the assessment in their report. The assessment is a desktop exercise using secondary data only and makes a number of assumptions. The authors did not enter detailed discussions with local authorities and other stakeholders regarding localised factors that may affect future demand, nor engage with older people about their accommodation preferences in the future. The report must therefore be treated as a *guide* to future demand for specialist housing and accommodation for older people.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

With that qualification, we believe the report provides sufficiently robust quantitative evidence to help inform local planning and commissioning decisions. Additional qualitative intelligence at regional and local authority level should be used to test the assumptions made in the report in order to develop the most effective commissioning strategies and investment decisions.

The report itself makes no recommendations. However, we would expect Regional Partnership Boards to consider the report when making revisions to population needs assessments and for local authorities to do the same when revising or remaking Local Housing Market Assessments. We would also expect local authorities to engage with citizens to understand what matters to them and how they would like their accommodation and care and support needs to be met in the future. Taken together, this will assist Regional Partnership Boards and local authorities to make effective planning and commissioning decisions for meeting the accommodation and care and support needs of older people, both now and in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Julie Morgan AC/AM

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