

Health and Social Care Committee

HSC(4)-05-11 paper 8

Letter from the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

Please find attached a letter from the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee as an annex to this paper.

Committee Service



**Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus
Public Accounts Committee**

Mark Drakeford
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

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Cardiff Bay
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27 September 2011

Dear *Mark,*

You will be aware that the Wales Audit Office published its follow up report on Adult Mental Health Services on 7 July 2011.

The report follows up the Wales Audit Office's baseline review of adult mental health services which was published in 2005. It reviews the progress made in improving adult mental health services in key service areas and assesses the extent to which the barriers to change have been addressed. The report also outlines how improvements need to be sustained.

At its meeting on 20 September 2011, the Public Accounts Committee decided to refer this report for consideration by the Health and Social Care Committee. The previous Health, Well Being and Local Government Committee published a report into Community Mental Health Services in 2009 and there is some crossover between the recommendations of that report and the findings of the Wales Audit Office one that would benefit from a consistent consideration.

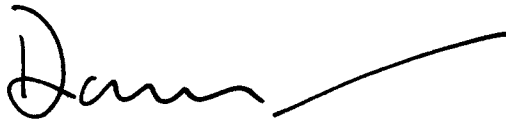
There are a number of actions a Committee can take in considering a Wales Audit Office report. It is for the Health and Social Care Committee to decide on the relevant course of action. Depending on the recommendations within the report a Committee might:

- Write to the responsible Welsh Government Accounting Officer requesting an update on progress made to implement the recommendations (this can be followed up at regular intervals);
- Invite the responsible Welsh Government Accounting Officer to give evidence to the Committee on the recommendations and their implementation;
- Hold a further inquiry into the issues raised in the report.

The Wales Audit Office has indicated that there has been strong engagement with the Welsh Government and the NHS on the implementation of the recommendations in the report. They would be pleased to provide more information to the Health and Social Care Committee if required, and contact details can be obtained from the Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee.

I should be grateful if you could keep the Public Accounts Committee informed of the outcome of any consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Darren Millar AM
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

