

Local Government Studies Programme consultation

Making the Connections Asset Management

Phase one of this work comprised a baseline assessment of progress in implementing the MtC agenda across the public sector. These findings will be made available in autumn 2007.

I propose to build on this by undertaking a study into the use of assets across the Welsh Public Service. The potential efficiency gains from reviewing the configuration and use of assets are significant and the potential gains from joint working in this area are also significant. There is a unique opportunity to:

- promote better use of assets at the institutional and broader community level; and
- identify and share good practice.

The proposal is that we examine asset management across the Welsh Public Services over a 3 year period.

Initially we will examine if the Welsh Public Services are collectively ensuring that their approach to fleet and vehicle asset management makes best use of resources to support improvements in service delivery?

In subsequent years, I will examine aspects of buildings management, management of plant, equipment and machinery and management of IT assets across Welsh Public Services.

Good Practice Exchange

I remain committed to the principle of using good practice to support improvement across the Welsh Public Service and plan to continue to identify, evaluate and facilitate its transfer both within and between sectors as part of mainstream work.

Following on from the successful launch of the Good Practice Exchange in May 2007 I plan to enhance the Exchange and initially specifically intend to develop the sickness absence management materials to focus upon the wider area of attendance management. This continues to be a priority area for the Welsh Public Service, is a logical extension of topic and will continue to build upon the relationships we have developed with the Human Resources community. In addition I plan to develop further content for the Good Practice Exchange which supports the Making the Connection work I am planning to carry out on asset management.

To support the exchange of knowledge and information I will also continue to develop the Shared Learning Forum. This will provide a means of Public Service Bodies sharing information across organisational and sector boundaries.

Adult Mental Health Services (follow up)

In October 2005 my report on adult mental health services in Wales highlighted the need for significant and sustained action to improve services for people with mental health problems. The Assembly Government responded to this, and other reports, by making additional funding available and publishing a national action plan for adult mental health services.

This examination would assess progress with implementation of the previous reports' recommendations and review how well NHS Trusts, Local Health Boards and Local Authorities are working together to design, commission and deliver modernised mental health services in line with the national action plan. Scope for delivering the work jointly with HIW and CSSIW will be reviewed.