

Message

From: Chris Llewelyn [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1DA2A216127C4059B8D079F4113A1004-CHRIS LLEWE]
Sent: 22/03/2020 22:32:22
To: Daniel Hurford [daniel.hurford@wlga.gov.uk]; Naomi Alleyne [naomi.alleyne@wlga.gov.uk]
Subject: FW: Communications and Engagement with Local Authorities

From: Tracey.Burke@gov.wales <Tracey.Burke@gov.wales>
Sent: 22 March 2020 22:05
To: Chris Llewelyn <chris.llewelyn@WLGA.GOV.UK>; PS.PermanentSecretary@gov.wales; Andrew.goodall@wales.nhs.uk; Andrew.Slade@wales.gsi.gov.uk; Desmond.Clifford@gov.wales
Cc: Shan.Morgan@gov.wales
Subject: RE: Communications and Engagement with Local Authorities

Chris, apologies I meant to reply to you before now but things have been so busy all weekend.

I think I can speak on behalf of all those copied in to say we would certainly take your comments in the spirit in which they are intended. It's a national crisis and we do all have to work together to protect the people of Wales and that is our wish. Your points are well made and I understand the concerns and will discuss them internally in the next couple of days.

It's a sad fact that the speed and severity of developments and therefore the urgency of decision making have been unprecedented in the last 10 days. We will certainly review how we can have earlier engagement going forward.

I do hope though that you have found our engagement with the WLGA over the weekend addresses some of your concerns – I know Steve Davies has been engaging with you on a number of issues over the weekend and that WLGA have been actively engaged in the work on 'shielded' people where we have kept in close contact with WLGA in the development of the letter and guidance that accompanies it. I know how closely and at pace you have been working with WCVA too. I think Reg too has been in touch today on other urgent developments over the weekend.

Kind regards

Tracey

From: Chris Llewelyn <chris.llewelyn@WLGA.GOV.UK>
Sent: 21 March 2020 19:48
To: PS Permanent Secretary <PS.PermanentSecretary@gov.wales>; Andrew.goodall@wales.nhs.uk; Andrew.Slade@wales.gsi.gov.uk; Burke, Tracey (EPS - Director General) <Tracey.Burke@gov.wales>; Clifford, Desmond (OFM - Director General) <Desmond.Clifford@gov.wales>
Subject: Communications and Engagement with Local Authorities

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you're all well and bearing up at what I know is an immensely difficult time for you and everyone involved in public services.

I took part in a teleconference with the 22 council leaders this morning and spoke with all 22 chief executives yesterday afternoon. It is now part of our on-going routine of communication with authorities across Wales as a consequence of the Covid-19 crisis and my intention is to email you all as and when any concerns or issues arise from our teleconferences with leaders (daily) and chief executives.

- As the crisis escalates, leaders and chief executives are concerned that collectively we need to communicate more effectively, more efficiently and with greater precision.
- It is also felt that earlier engagement with Councils and greater trust between senior officials would speed up responses, lead to better delivery and potentially head-off some of the difficulty encountered in recent days.
- I believe that local government can provide many solutions going-forward but the engagement must take place as early as possible. I don't believe that that is happening at the moment.

I believe that the engagement at a political level, based on confidence and trust, is demonstrably strong and close. The joint press conference held at the start of the week by Local Government Minister, Julie James AM, and Councillor Andrew Morgan, Leader of the WLGA, and the dialogue that has taken place during the course of the week is evidence of that close working. Our respective communications teams are also working well together on sharing public messaging.

As officials we need to be doing more and working together more effectively. Local government can and must be trusted in advance of announcements such as those on the project to support the 100k vulnerable people, school closures, identifying vulnerable children etc. and can contribute constructively to all aspects of these arrangements not just the immediate delivery. With this in mind, I have established a small group of four local authority chief executives to act as advisers and a sounding board to the WLGA on new initiatives and policies. They are happy to support the Welsh Government in any way they can. We already use the four Political Group Leaders for governance purposes, because things are moving so quickly, and they have been engaging with Ministers over the last week.

I appreciate the challenges and pressures faced by everyone and the efforts of Welsh Government colleagues, however, I feel that we can be more effective and improve our collective impact by being more joined up but we must have more trust and clarity.

Please accept these comments in the spirit in which they are intended and I am more than happy to discuss how we can address these concerns on the phone.

Best wishes

Chris

Dr Chris Llewelyn

Irrelevant & Sensitive

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***** Efallai bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol yn y neges yma. Os nad ydych chi'n ymwneud â hi yn benodol - nac yn gyfrifol am ei rhoi i'r sawl sydd wedi'i enwi - chewch chi ddim copïo na throsglwyddo'r neges. Yn y cyfryw achos, dylech chi ddileu'r neges a rhoi gwybod i'r sawl a'i hanfonodd trwy ebost yn ddiymdroi. Rhewch wybod i'r anfonwr os nad ydych chi neu'ch cyflogwr yn gadael i neb anfon negeseuon o'r fath ar y we. Dyw Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ddim yn hyrwyddo nac yn cymeradwyo unrhyw farn, casgliad na gwybodaeth nad yw'n berthnasol i'w gwaith swyddogol yn y neges yma. Sustem ebost WLGA fydd yn prosesu pob neges at y cyfeiriad yma neu oddi wrtho ac, o bosibl, bydd rhywun arall ar wahân i'r sawl sydd wedi'i enwi yn ei harchwilio.

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