

Message

From: Cole, Judith (EPS - LGFWP) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=47770CFB94B4494FB7E42C0E536A9BF7-COLE, JUDIT]
Sent: 01/01/2021 14:34:52
To: Carter, Debra (EPS - LGSF) [debra.carter2@gov.wales]; James, Lisa (EPS - LGD) [lisa.james@gov.wales]; Germain, Claire (EPS - LG:T&P) [claire.germain@gov.wales]
Subject: Fwd: Catch-up with Chris Llewelyn WLGA - for info

For interest

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From: Morgan, Shan (PSG - Permanent Secretary's Office) <Shan.Morgan@gov.wales>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 3:54 pm
To: Burke, Tracey (EPS - Director General)
Cc: Goodall, Andrew (HSS - DG - NHS Wales Chief Executive); Slade, Andrew (ESNR - Director General); Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director); Cole, Judith (EPS - LGFWP); PS FirstMinister; Daniels, Jo-anne (EPS - Communities & Tackling Poverty); PS Permanent Secretary; PS Deputy Minister & Chief Whip; PS Minister Housing & Local Government
Subject: Catch-up with Chris Llewelyn WLGA - for info

Tracey

I had one of my regular 1:1 catch-up sessions with Chris Llewelyn on 21 December. It was a call of over an hour and very friendly, as usual. The main points that came out were as follows:-

1. The WLGA feel the partnership between national and local government is working very well in Wales, thanks to regular meetings at Ministerial (particularly Jane Hutt and Julie James) and official level. He described his English colleagues as “envious” of the relationship in Wales. The Shadow Social Partnership Board has also helped reinforce the positive relationship.
2. We agreed that it would be important to keep the lessons from the Covid period in terms of democratic processes and engagement. Chris emphasised the value of the Partnership Council, and suggested extending membership more widely now that meetings are online. He thought that Leaders always welcome the opportunity to talk directly between politicians.
3. We discussed our respective future workplace plans – like us, the WLGA and Local Authorities are planning to keep remote working as part of a blended approach. We agreed that there is a real opportunity to join up the public services in Wales, including through the use of hubs.
4. I asked Chris what kept him awake at the moment, and he highlighted the Local Government settlement and its potential impact on services. The distribution formula meant that someone would always be at the bottom.
5. But he was very clear about the achievements of the Welsh Government, including the Local Elections Bill and CJsCs. And he underlined that relations were working well – he gave particular name checks to Jo-Anne Daniels and to Reg.
6. And although he flagged up lack of LG staff capacity as an issue, he recognised that the Welsh Government was under very similar constraints as a result of successive UK Government resource

decisions. I explained that the First Minister followed the principle that the WG should be treated no more favourably than stakeholders in terms of resources.

It was very good to hear direct that the relationship between WG and LG officials is working so successfully – please pass on my thanks to your team. No specific follow-up from this meeting – I'll book the next for late January or so.

Personal Data

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