

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JM/05109/19

S G Milsom
Chair
Cymru Older People's Alliance

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6 March 2019

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter to the First Minister which sets out COPA's Manifesto for Older People in Wales. As the policy for older people falls within my portfolio, it has been forwarded to me for reply.

I recognise that an ageing society is one of the key challenges facing government, and with the introduction of new legislation and policy it became clear that the Strategy for Older People 2013-23 had become outdated. As you know, work commenced last year to review the existing Strategy and I am aware that COPA has played an active role in this process.

I agree with your view that older people must be given the opportunity to be able to influence policy that affects their lives. Placing the voice of older people at the core of policy making is fundamental to a rights based approach and this is where organisations such as COPA work at their best, by enabling the voice of older people to be placed at the centre of Welsh Government policy development and implementation.

I am pleased to hear that your relationship with the Welsh Government to date has been a positive one and I am sure that it will continue in this regard. To further improve our mechanisms for engagement, you will be aware that we are currently reviewing MAFA's terms of reference and membership. The refreshed group will play a key role in overseeing the implementation of the new Strategy for an Ageing Society. We are keen to ensure that the voices of older people from a diverse range of groups that do not traditionally take part in more formal structures are also heard.

Of course, it would be impossible for the Welsh Government to achieve all of this whilst working in isolation. As well as working with and seeking to support a strong third sector network of organisations, the Welsh Government allocates £1.5 million annually to support the office of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

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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.

Many thanks for sharing your Manifesto with me. I have noted the points you raise and I am pleased that you plan to meet with officials working on the Strategy for an Ageing Society to discuss further. I am confident that by working together we can co-produce a way forward that will be of benefit to all older people in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie".

Julie Morgan AC/AM

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