



Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
Gogledd Orllewin Cymru
*North West Wales
NHS Trust*

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: CB/MLW
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5 March 2008

Clerk of the Committee
Rural Development Sub Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

Dear Sir

Rural Development Sub Committee Scrutiny Enquiry

Please find below comments from the North West Wales NHS Trust as requested.

General

1. What are the poverty/deprivation problems faced by rural areas? What are the specific needs of rural areas in relation to this issue?

- Social isolation resulting in post natal depression, child in need and child protection problems
- Poor access to leisure and play activities
- Poor access to transport

2. Are anti-poverty/deprivation activities best dealt with by the Welsh Assembly Government or by the Local Authorities? Why?

There is a need for a global strategy with a local approach and partnership (health, police, 3rd sector) working by all agencies to address the problems, which is not necessarily led by the local authority.



3. (i) What anti-poverty/deprivation activities best dealt with by the Welsh Assembly Government or by Local Authority) are you aware of?

Flying Start, Sure Start, Corun I Sawdl, Genesis, Communities First, Objective 1, Integrated family centres

ii) Do these anti-poverty/deprivation policies adequately address the needs of rural areas?

Only in patches, identified by postcodes, the policies are targeted at communities rather than children in need.

4. What specific measures would you like to see implemented by the Welsh Assembly Government to deal with poverty/deprivation issues in rural Wales.?

An opportunity to develop innovative approaches to look at problems such as rural isolation, and addressing homelessness

5. What examples of good practice are you aware of ?

Communities first, specific grants

Population Groups

The questions below focus on poverty and deprivation in relation to children and young people, the economically active, the economically inactive and older people. For each of the groups (or whichever is relevant to you) please consider the following questions:

6. To what extent are these groups living in poverty/ deprivation in rural Wales?

Patchy and mixed and depends on the indices used to measure poverty. The index of multiple deprivation was collated in 1999 and demonstrated that car ownership was a sign of poverty however in rural Wales car ownership is an essential even for the poorest of families.

7. What issues are experienced?

Low opportunity of access, transport. Isolation problems, unemployment and often high house prices if the area is seen as a holiday retreat.

8. How do problems of the 4 population groups differ across rural Wales (for example between areas in West Wales and East Wales)?

Language issues and access.

9. In what ways are any sub groups within the four population groups particularly affected by rural poverty/deprivation, for example, disabled economically inactive people living in rural parts of Wales?

10. What are the most effective ways of tackling poverty/deprivation for individuals from these groups living in rural part of Wales?

11. How can these problems be addressed by the Welsh Assembly Government?

Broader definition of poverty, develop notices which are more appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Barton', written over the printed name.

Craig Barton
Executive Director of Operations and Service Improvement