To: Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

South East Wales Improvement Collaborative (SEWIC) Making the Connections: Connecting Social Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:
To inform Cabinet of the work programme that is being undertaken by the SEWIC Authorities relating to the provision; purchasing and commissioning of Social Care across South East Wales.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Cabinet will be aware from previous reports to Cabinet on 2nd September 2009 and 19th November 2010 that ten Directors of Social Services in the Region have formed the South East Wales Improvement Collaborative (SEWIC). Working in support of SEWIC is a Programme Director who has worked with the Directors to produce a feasibility study, the purpose of which is to explore and identify potential or actual areas of collaboration across and within the SEWIC region between Local Authorities and wider key stakeholders such as NHS partners, Housing and the Third Sector in line with the priorities set out in “Making the Connections: Delivering Beyond Boundaries”.

2.0 FEASIBILITY STUDY OUTCOMES AND THE PROGRAMME OF CHANGE

2.1 The feasibility study was broken down into the key areas of personal social care spending:

- Older People;
- Children & Families;
- High Cost Adult Services;
• Learning Disabilities;
• Physical Disability; and
• Mental Health.

2.2 The analysis of opportunities for wider collaborative advantage for SEWIC was benchmarked against the three core ‘Making the Connections’ outcome measurements:

• Better Outcomes for Service Users (Effectiveness);
• Reduced Cost for the Provision of Services (Economy); and
• Better Use of Existing Resources (Efficiency).

2.3 The Feasibility Study concluded that there are potentially significant savings to be made in the short and medium term from greater partnerships across Local Authorities and with key stakeholders in the NHS; the Third Sector and Housing both in terms of procurement and commissioning.

2.4 Of the 24 developmental areas examined in the Feasibility Study, the SEWIC Board has agreed to take forward six recommendations into a programme for delivery that address the need for service modernisation and cost effectiveness. These are summarised as follows:

1. Reviewing and negotiating high cost adult care packages.
2. Developing a regional high cost adult procurement hub or brokerage point.
3. The collaborative extension of the Shared Lives scheme.
4. The realisation of existing investment plans for supported and extra care housing and development of additional capacity.
5. The Implementation of Assistive Technology and the regional commissioning of such technology.
6. The regional commissioning of adoption and fostering services.

2.5 Each of these development areas will have an identified Project Manager who will have the responsibility of identifying the opportunities and benefits of collaborative working and driving on progressing the agreed agenda.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Social Services Improvement Agency (SSIA) has made a financial commitment of £80,000 to this programme of development for 2010/11 and is expected to support this initiative in 2011/12, although the level of funding has not been confirmed.

3.2 Further opportunities to access resources to support this agenda have become available through the Value Wales, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Welsh Assembly Government. These opportunities are being fully explored and applications have been made to access project delivery support as follows:
- Value Wales for £20,000 to support the review of High cost placements.
- WLGA to access project management capacity.
- Welsh Assembly Government funding of £30,000 for project delivery support.

3.3 Further reports will be brought to Cabinet as developments in this change programme agenda are made.

GIOVANNI ISINGRINI
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL REGENERATION

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Consultation has been undertaken with Executive Board in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.