

Councillor James G Jamieson  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

27 March 2012

Dear Cllr Jamieson,

Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care' is a new programme which works with councils to improve their performance in adult social care. The sector-led initiative builds on the self-assessment and improvement work already carried out by councils. The programme reports to the LGA's Community Well-being Board, of which I am Chair.

A key part of the programme is working with councils previously judged 'adequate' for adult social care by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in its last round of assessments. Each of these councils has developed a funded improvement plan and their progress will be formally endorsed by peer challenge, amongst other mechanisms.

As you are no doubt aware, Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing in Central Bedfordshire provided a presentation to the Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care programme board on 23 March. This outlined the progress Central Bedfordshire has made since the judgment by the Care Quality Commission in November 2010.

It was clear to the programme board that the Council has made sustainable improvements over the last three years and I am writing to you to confirm that the Towards Excellence programme board fully endorsed the assessment of improvements that have been made. It is also apparent that the improvements now are also embedded in the work of the council and its partners, and will be sustained in the three year plan set out in the position paper. The Board also noted the contribution your authority is making in terms of utilising its own experiences to support other councils locally and nationally in their improvement journey. This reiterates the principle of councils supporting each other, which is key to the new approach to sector led improvement.

The Board was impressed by the rigour of the outlined Recovery and Improvement project plan and in particular the member leadership this demonstrated. Strong and determined leadership has been instrumental in delivering the improvements which will benefit people who need care and support in Central Bedfordshire.

I would be grateful if you would pass on the Community Well-being Board's recognition of your Council's considerable achievement to your Cabinet and to the Council's staff.

Yours sincerely

Cllr David Rogers OBE  
Chair, LGA Community Well-being Board