Summary of the Welsh language in Health and Social Services Partnership Board meeting 7 March 2017

The theme of the board’s second meeting was Technology and the Welsh Language. The Board received presentations from:

- Overview - Sally Greenway, Welsh Government
- NHS Wales Informatics Service - Carwyn Lloyd-Jones
- TRAC - Jacqui Maunder / Kelly Skene (NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership)
- Welsh Community Care Information System - Meilys Heulfryn Smith (Gwynedd Council)
- Patient Appointment Alert Project – Dylan Williams (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board)

To follow an update was given on the Welsh Language Standards for the health sector. It was noted that following the Government’s commitment to seek to amend the Welsh Language Measure in this Assembly term, the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language recently announced a call for evidence from stakeholders and partners about their experiences of the Measure. However this work would not impact on the intention to make standards for the health sector.

The Board went on to discuss the engagement and communication activity for *More than just words*….., and it was stated that positive initial meetings had been held with key stakeholders. It was reported that the first meeting of the NHS Welsh Language Executive Leads Group was a very progressive forum. It was agreed that the Group would focus work on 3-4 priorities and look to deliver and influence on those actions.

The Social Services regional forums were continuing to develop. In a recent meeting of the 22 local authorities the item was well received and there was a lot of positivity towards the ongoing implementation of *More than just words*…. The main challenges identified were the recruitment of staff with Welsh language skills and staff lacking the confidence to state they possess the skills.

A national showcase event is being planned to take place in the autumn. The event will include keynote speakers from both health and social care sectors as well as showcasing and sharing good practice.

The group will next meet on the 12th of July 2017, and it was agreed that the main theme of the meeting will be workforce.