



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Chief Executives – Local Authorities in Wales

OUTCOME AGREEMENTS 2013-16

You will be aware the Minister for Public Services made an announcement about the future of Outcome Agreements at the WLGA conference in June. It was set in the context of finding a better balance of the powers and duties placed on Local Authorities and whether this needs to change to enable you to deliver the outcomes your citizens want. It was also, about looking at ways of giving Local Authorities greater flexibility and Welsh Government moving away from setting out what must be done and requiring detailed reports on progress.

Outcome Agreements have been a positive tool to improve accountability over the last five years, it is appropriate now to consider their future. It is an opportunity to begin to put into practice what the White Paper says about Welsh Government setting the strategic direction and Local Authorities determining how to deliver those expectations in the light of local circumstances. Therefore, to help move towards this approach and simplify funding arrangements, the Minister for Public Services decided that the £30m grant which currently supports Outcome Agreements will be rolled into the Revenue Support Grant for 2016-17 onwards, thus formally bringing this initiative to an end in March 2016.

To enable the timely payment of grant awards for 2015-16, it would be helpful if your Corporate Performance Teams could submit their completed Self Assessments of Performance against Outcomes for 2014-15, with all relevant associated data and information, to me by 30 September 2015. This will enable assessments to be undertaken and payments to be made by 31 March 2016. As in previous years, the level of grant paid will depend on our assessment of the extent to which individual agreements have been delivered.

We would not, however, want to see the focus on performance and improvement that the Outcome Agreements have provided to be diminished and would hope that Local Authorities would continue to work with us in the future to develop and implement the new performance and improvement System.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah King
**Reforming Local Government Programme/
Raglen Diwygio Llywodraeth Leol**
Welsh Government - Llywodraeth Cymru