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Chief Executives of:  
Flintshire County Council  
Gwynedd Council  
Isle of Anglesey Council  
Wrexham County Borough Council  
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

**Reference:** AC/214/caf

**Date issued:** 30 September 2020

Dear Dilwyn

### North Wales regional pooled fund in relation to care home places for older people

My staff contacted you on the 30th July 2020 inviting comments on extracts from local reports to Conwy and Denbighshire councils which contained some references to your organisation. The responses we received were helpful and we have now finalised the reports. Copies of these final reports are attached.

Whilst these reports look primarily at local arrangements in Conwy and Denbighshire, they also raise some specific concerns about the North Wales regional pooled fund in relation to care home places for older people. As you know, this regional pooled fund is a partnership between all six North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

We found that, in practice, the North Wales pooled fund is no more than a transfer of funds back and forth between the pooled fund host and its contributors. We concluded that the pooled fund does not offer value for money and does not deliver any of the intended benefits of a pooled fund.

In respect of the pooled budget arrangement we proposed to both councils that they **should engage with partners to review the current pooled budget arrangement for residential care for older people, to ensure that transfers of funds between public bodies have a tangible benefit such as better more integrated commissioning of residential and nursing home care.**

I feel it important to draw this to your attention as Conwy and Denbighshire councils cannot action this proposal for improvement alone. This proposal is applicable to all partners contributing to the pooled fund and as such all partners need to play their part in driving improvement.

I have also written to Welsh Government seeking assurance from them over the actions they intend to take to better support delivery of pooled funds in Wales.

As part of our ongoing activities we intend to monitor how North Wales councils, the Health Board and Welsh Government address our concerns about the pooled fund.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this work, please contact Jeremy Evans or Andrew Doughton

Yours sincerely



**ADRIAN CROMPTON**  
**Auditor General for Wales**

cc: Iwan Davies, Chief Executive, Conwy County Borough Council  
Judith Greenhalgh, Chief Executive, Denbighshire County Council  
Albert Heaney, Director - Social Services and Integration, Welsh Government

Huw Rees, Dave Thomas, Directors, Audit Wales  
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