

Bay Watch

30 April 2008



About Bay Watch

Bay Watch is a weekly political briefing for Welsh NHS Confederation members that is focused on health issues and policies being discussed and debated in the National Assembly for Wales.

If you have any queries about this publication, please contact jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org

Last Week at the Assembly

Confed gives evidence to Health Committee

Welsh NHS Confederation Director, Mike Ponton, and Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Jonathan Davies, have given evidence to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee as part of its inquiry into the proposals to restructure the NHS.

The transcript of the discussion is not yet available but we will include the link in Bay Watch as soon as possible.

First Minister's Questions

Asked about WAG's plans to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the NHS, the First Minister said that there would be a reception for staff who worked for the NHS at the time of its inception in 1948.

In response to a question about priorities for dentistry, the First Minister said the main priority was to deal with the *"small parts of Pembrokeshire and Anglesey where it still not possible to get dentistry on the NHS"*, along with developing more of public health focus in dentistry.

Read the full transcript of First Minister's Questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=82568&ds=4/2008#rhif1>

DTOC debate

In Wednesday's plenary session, AMs discussed the recent report into Delayed Transfers of Care by the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care. The Health Minister said: *"In too many areas, social services and the NHS are not planning and managing services effectively"*. Ms Hart rejected punitive charging arrangements in England *"because we want organisations to work together rather than fight over money."*

Read the WHSC report here:

<http://www.wihsc.co.uk/content/public/publications/search/?frmKeywords=delayed+transfer&frmResults=5>

and the transcript of the debate here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=82568&ds=4/2008#rhif7>

Autism Strategy

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, launched a strategic action plan to drive improvements in autism services. The Action Plan is designed to help the 30,000 people across Wales that are affected by autism.

Read the press release here:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/news/22-04-08-autism/?lang=en>

NHS at 60

AM, Irene James (Labour, Islwyn), has put forward a Statement of Opinion on the 60th Anniversary of the NHS. The statement celebrates the setting up of the health service, the contribution of its staff and calls for the anniversary to be marked in an appropriate manner. Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-state-opinion.htm?act=dis&id=82526&ds=4/2008>

Redress Measure

The Members' Research Service has produced a briefing on the Proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure.

Read the briefing here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/08-033.pdf>

Next Week at the Assembly

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee

The committee will continue its inquiry into the proposals to change the structure of the NHS in Wales. Carol Jones, Director of the Board of Community Health Councils, will be giving evidence on Wednesday.

The committee's inquiry into presumed consent for organ donation also continues and representatives from the National Secular Society and the British Humanist Association will also attend to give evidence. See more details in Wednesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third-hidden/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=82477&ds=4/2008>

Mental Health LCO committee

The committee will hear evidence from Mind Cymru, Ffenics Ltd, Mental Health Advocacy Pembrokeshire and Cardiff Community Health Council on Tuesday. For more details, see the agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third-hidden/bus-legislation-lco-2008-8/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas-4.htm?act=dis&id=82780&ds=4/2008>

First Minister's Questions

In Tuesday's plenary session, the First Minister will be asked about plans for health provision in the Cynon Valley.

Read the full list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=81718&ds=4/2008>

Citizen governance debate

In a debate on the Assembly Government's "programme of action on citizen centred service delivery", AMs will discuss whether WAG is working with citizens to deliver services and if more power should be devolved to local government.

See more details in Tuesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=82532&ds=4/2008>

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

The Minister will be asked two questions with potential implications for the health service. He will be asked to give an update on:

- WAG's strategy for substance abuse.
- Discussions with the Home Secretary regarding tackling alcohol abuse among under 18s.

See the full list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=81872&ds=5/2008>

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**
CONFFEDERASIWN GIG CYMRU



Unit 3
Waterton Park
Bridgend
CF31 3PH

Tel 0845 33 00 499
E-mail info@welshconfed.org

About the Welsh NHS Confederation

The Welsh NHS Confederation represents the organisations making up the NHS in Wales: trusts and local health boards. We act as an independent voice in the drive for better health and better healthcare through our policy and influencing work, and by supporting members with events, information and training. To find out more about us go to -

www.welshconfed.org