

Bay Watch

19 May 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

First Minister's Questions

Nerys Evans AM (Mid and West Wales, Plaid Cymru) asked the First Minister whether money would be found to compensate junior doctors for the abolition of free accommodation. The First Minister replied that he was "not certain" what would happen but that it was not appropriate to be discussing terms, pay and conditions of work in the chamber.

Angela Burns AM (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, Conservative) raised concerns about patients being kept waiting for appointments because of delays in filling vacancies for administrative staff.

The First Minister stated that it would "usually be a matter for the Chief Executive of the Trust to take up."

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=84682&ds=5/2008#rhif1>

Susstance Misuse Debate

AMs discussed the government's new 10-year strategy for substance misuse, which will see

£25million being invested to tackle the problem this year. The Minister for Social Justice, **Brian Gibbons AM**, said that every pound invested would be saved in the NHS and criminal justice system.

Mark Isherwood AM (North Wales, Conservative) highlighted the big increases in demand and criticised the lack of an action plan in the strategy.

Liberal Democrat Health Spokesperson, **Jenny Randerson AM**, said that the strategy would not "create the revolution in attitude that we need." Read the transcript of the debate here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=84682&ds=5/2008#rhif3>

Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

William Graham AM (South Wales East, Conservative) questioned the government's "continual restructuring" of the NHS. The Minister replied that the plans for the NHS would lead to "a much more effective way of delivering services."

Paul Davies AM (Preseli Pembrokeshire, Conservative) asked the Minister about his plans for improving public service delivery, to which the Minister replied that Local Service Boards would play "a vital role in transforming key services" and would "help take joint action on major challenges."

Read the transcript here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=84964&ds=5/2008#a1>

Autism Debate

Mark Isherwood AM (North Wales, Conservative) welcomed WAG's action plan for autistic spectrum disorders but called for more action to tackle the specific issues that adults with autism face.

Liberal Democrat Health Spokesperson, **Jenny Randerson**, called for more training to be available for social care staff, while Shadow Health Minister, Jonathan Morgan, warned that finances must be made available.

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, **Gwenda Thomas**, reassured members that authorities would have to include services for autism in their Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategies, and said that she was confident the action plan would ensure a "fair and equitable service."

Read the transcript here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=84964&ds=5/2008#a8>

Written questions

Use the links below to access written answers to questions on the following subjects:

- The availability of the drug Erlotinib (Taraceva) on the NHS.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=81665&ds=5/2008>

- Bed numbers
- obesity surgery
- Staff and Associate Specialists Contract
- Number of doctors in Wales
- Nicotene Replacement Therapy
- Screening for Group B Streptococcus
- Vascular screening programme
- Moratorium on hospital reconfiguration
- Nurses pay increase

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=81647&ds=5/2008#RHIF2>

- Audit of services for older people
- Bowel screening programme
- Appointment of officer and non-officer
- Members children's access to key workers,
- Strategy for adults with autism

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=82587&ds=5/2008#4>

- Dental hygiene in schools

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=82544&ds=5/2008#rhif1>

- HQ for newly merged trusts
- Appointment of executives and NEDs to the newly merged trusts

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=82633&ds=5/2008#2>

- HCW's position on Deep Brain Simulation for Parkinson's Disease
- Access to ITU beds in Nevill Hall

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=84575&ds=5/2008#rhif2>

This week at the Assembly

Workforce Planning Debate

In Wednesday's plenary session, AMs will debate the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's report into Workforce Planning in the Health Service and Social Care. Read the report here:

http://www.assemblywales.org/hwlg_ymchwiliad_i_gynllunio_gweithlu_yn_y_gwasanaeth_lechyd_ac_ym_maes_gofal_cymdeithasol_adroddiad-e.pdf

Read the Health Minister's written response to the report here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=84498&ds=5/2008>

First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will be asked to make a statement on the development of obesity surgery.

Read the full list of questions for the First Minister here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=83968&ds=5/2008>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will hold this week's meeting at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea. They will continue the inquiry into presumed consent for organ donation, hearing evidence from Dr Richard Griffith, Lecturer in Health Law at the School of Health Science, Swansea University. The meeting will conclude with an "open mic" session to get views from the general public.

See the full agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=84688&ds=5/2008>

The committee has also published the Health Minister's response to issues raised during the Ministerial Scrutiny Session held on 16 April. Read the response here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=84454&ds=5/2008>

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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