

Bay Watch

28 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

The First Minister was asked to make a statement by *David Lloyd (Plaid Cymru, South Wales West)* on the availability of obesity surgery in Wales. He said that Health Commission Wales have assessed that it has lower priority than specialist surgery and would only be made available in exceptional cases.

Shadow Health Minister, Jonathan Morgan, added that the emphasis should be placed on changing lifestyles.

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=85616&ds=5/2008#rhif1>

Gwent maternity services

The Health Minister gave a statement on an investigation into maternity services in Gwent, which found a shortage of staff and a lack of leadership and management. Ms Hart announced an Action Plan to address the shortcomings but she reassured members that services were safe.

In response to questions raised about management not listening to the concerns of frontline staff, the Minister said that she would focus on the issue of leadership and "*how management delivers and reacts to staff*" during the possible restructuring process.

Read the transcript from the discussion here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=85616&ds=5/2008#rhif4>

Domiciliary Care Legislative Competence Order

The draft Domiciliary Care LCO has been approved in plenary and has now been passed to Parliament for scrutiny. The new measure would enable the Assembly to regulate the charges set by councils for domiciliary social care.

Read the plenary debate here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=85616&ds=5/2008#rhif6>

Workforce planning debate

In a debate on the Health Committee's Report into Workforce Planning, *Shadow Health Minister, Jonathan Morgan*, said that workforce planning

was “too often based on historic patterns rather than on future needs, particularly the need to develop more community based services.” He also highlighted the need for better integration and co-operation on workforce planning between health and social care providers.

Health Minister, Edwina Hart, welcomed the report, but said that it would be “challenging” to implement. She added that “it will require an awful lot of looking at the structures that currently exist in the NHS” but also said that she was pleased with the progress made this year on workforce planning.

Read the transcript from the debate here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=85951&ds=5/2008#rhif5>

Read the Committee’s report into workforce planning here:

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

and the Health Minister’s written response 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>

The Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The Committee will undertake an inquiry into Local Service Boards once their inquiry into presumed consent for organ donation is completed. Read a brief discussion on the LSB review, and the evidence given by UK Transplant Co-ordinators Association, on the following link:

<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=85321&ds=5/2008>

Written questions

Answers to written questions on the following topics have been published online this week.

Formal plans for chiropractice, cardiac rehabilitation, improving stroke services, supporting health research:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=84893&ds=5/2008#rhif2>

Estimated cost of the Grogan judgement:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=84844&ds=5/2008>

Improving the patient experience:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=85401&ds=5/2008>

Tackling hospital related infections:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=85415&ds=5/2008#rhif3>

NHS dental practices in Monmouthshire and Torfaen:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=85427&ds=5/2008#rhif4>

There is no business to report for next week due to the Summer Half Term recess.

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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