

Bay Watch

9 June 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

Funding for deep brain stimulation

£400,000 has been provided to Health Commission Wales for deep brain stimulation treatment, which will be delivered by North Bristol NHS Trust and the Walton Centre. Once the James Steers review of the future of adult neurosciences has been completed, consideration will be given about whether it should be provided in England or in Wales. AMs raised concerns that this amount would not be enough.

Advocacy for elderly people

The First Minister said advocacy services were "explicitly recognised in the National Service Framework for Older People" and should be commissioned by the NHS and social services.

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=86921&ds=6/2008#rhif1>

Questions on health provision in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, and support for carers were transferred for written answers, which can be read here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=86915&ds=6/2008>

Review of Services in Ceredigion

Edwina Hart delivered a statement on Alan Axford's review, which highlighted "real potential for increasing the care that could be delivered more locally in people's homes." The report also confirmed the important role that Bronglais Hospital will play within the network of larger hospitals in Wales. The Minister also stated that she would intervene in resolving the delays finding a suitable site for the proposed redevelopment of Cardigan Hospital. She added that the final report on the rural health strategy is due in December.

Read the full transcript of the discussion here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=86921&ds=6/2008#rhif4>

Mental health services

The Health Minister said that Professor Michael Williams's review would "*shine a new light of public interest and attention on the future of mental health services.*"

The review recommends that a single, responsible statutory body be established to plan and deliver a fully integrated mental health service.

In response to calls for more detail about what form the proposed all-Wales body would take, and

whether the Minister accepted the recommendation, Ms Hart reiterated that she would be seeking the views of all stakeholders and said she “cannot give a definite answer.” She added that it would be important to see how the recommendations would fit in with what happens at the end of the consultation period on structures.

Read the discussion in full here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=86921&ds=6/2008#rhif6>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The transcript of evidence given by the School of Health Science in Swansea University for the inquiry into presumed consent for organ donation is now available 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=86812&ds=6/2008>

Public Service Ombudsman

The Public Service Ombudsman has presented his Annual Report to the Assembly in which he criticises NHS organisations for protecting their own budgets ahead of providing the most appropriate care for patients.

Read the report here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid/gen-ld7072-e.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=GEN-LD7072%20-%20The%20Annual%20Report%202007/08%20of%20the%20Public%20Services%20Ombudsman%20for%20Wales>

Neo-natal care in Wales

In a Statement of Opinion, Lynne Neagle (Torfaen, Labour) calls for adequate funding to be made available to Welsh NHS Trusts to meet accepted standards in neo-natal care.

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=86887&ds=6/2008>

This week at the Assembly

Review of Health Commission Wales

The Health Minister’s planned statement on Health Commission Wales was postponed from its original date of 3 June and will now take place in plenary on Tuesday 10 June.

See Tuesday’s agenda here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=86899&ds=6/2008>

Questions to the First Minister

The First Minister will be asked questions on the following subjects:

- GP practices in South Wales Central
- the progress of health reviews in Wales
- health provision in South Wales Central
- priorities for dentistry in Wales.

Read the full list of questions here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=86234&ds=6/2008>

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

In Wednesday's plenary session, the Minister will be asked questions on the following subjects:

- improving access to mental health services for 16 and 17 year olds
- epilepsy services in South Wales Central
- availability of modern drug treatments in South Wales Central
- progress of health re-organisation in West Wales
- the necessity of the 1000 Lives Campaign
- improving the patient experience in the Welsh NHS
- planned improvements in primary health care in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
- ambulance services in South Wales East
- hospital car parking charges
- the Burns Report on the future of Llandudno hospital
- support for the treatment of mental health
- improving occupational health services in North Wales
- intensive care unit beds in North Wales hospitals
- protecting staff from violence at the Royal Gwent Hospital.
- NHS staffing levels in Wales.

Read the full list of questions here:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/
bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.
htm?act=dis&id=86235&ds=6/2008](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=86235&ds=6/2008)

Mental Health Services LCO Committee

The committee will meet on Tuesday to deliberate on the report it proposes to publish. It will be a private meeting, with no public viewing or transcript.

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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