

Bay Watch

20 October 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

Pharmacy services

The First Minister acknowledged that pharmacy services had been “underused” historically in the NHS, but said that they are now being used much more fully to “reduce pressure on the pressure points”.

Reconfiguration of the NHS

The First Minister said the plans had been “widely welcomed by the health community”. Conservative health spokesperson, Jonathan Morgan, asked if it would be Assembly policy to write off the debts of the existing organisations. Rhodri Morgan responded by saying: “I do not think we have ever had a policy on writing off debts”, later adding: “Sometimes people feel that the best thing to do is to clear the debt and start again and ensure that kind of debt is not built up again.”

Read the transcript in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=101426&ds=10/2008#rhif3>

Older people's commissioner

The debate on the Commissioner's annual report touched on a number of health issues, including

protected mealtimes for the elderly in hospital, and the problem of elderly abuse in Wales.

Read the transcript in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=101426&ds=10/2008#rhif9>

Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

The Minister said that the role of Local Service Boards would become increasingly important in Wales, adding that LSBs had an important role to play in prioritising the needs of the community and of local citizens.

On the subject of Delayed Transfers of Care, the Minister has been working closely with Brian Gibbons, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, to look at the area of pooled budgets. He said that Carmarthenshire Local Service Board had already started the first stage of aligning budgets between the local authority's social services department, the LHB and the NHS trust.

The Minister said: “They [Carmarthenshire LSB] fully expect, over a phased period, to move to pooled or shared budgets. We think that that will be absolutely crucial in terms of a seamless attack and delivery on areas such as delayed transfers of care.”

Read the full transcript here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=101741&ds=10/2008#rhif2>

Support for young carers debate

Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, acknowledged that there is still much to do to achieve a joined-up approach across social services for adults, children and the NHS. She said that her Legislative Competence Order was aimed at supporting a wide range of measures included in the young carers action list.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=101741&ds=10/2008#rhif7>

Press releases issued

Minister takes action to improve engagement on proposed local NHS changes
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2008/081014engagement/?lang=en>

Reform of palliative care services announced
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2008/081013palliative/?lang=en>

New guide to help develop care for people with mental health conditions
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2008/081010mentalhealth/?lang=en>

Written answers published

Click on the links for answers to written questions on the following subjects:

National Public Health Service remaining within the NHS, children with mental health problems being

treated on adult wards.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=101539&ds=10/2008#1>

School Nursing Strategy

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=101500&ds=10/2008>

This week at the Assembly

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

On Wednesday, the committee will hear from Mr Alan Murray, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and Mr Tim Woodhead, the Director of Finance, on the progress made by the Ambulance Service in reaching its targets.

See Wednesday's 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=101598&ds=10/2008>

Questions to the First Minister

The Minister will respond to questions on:

- times for counselling, psychotherapy and cognitive behavioural therapy
- policies to tackle obesity in South Wales East
- priorities for improving ambulance response times
- infertility treatment in Wales
- the future of NHS 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=100391&ds=10/2008>

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