

Bay Watch

11 December 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

This week at the Assembly

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The Minister will be asked to comment on:

- recruitment of social services workers
- elderly mentally infirm patients in Llandudno
- occupational health
- career development within the Welsh NHS
- ambulance service in Powys
- rehabilitation services
- osteoporosis patients in central North Wales
- social services priorities
- primary care
- pharmacy contract
- dentistry
- ambulance response times in South Wales Central
- parking charges at hospitals
- challenges to the NHS in delivering her restructuring proposals.

Read the list of questions in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=107316&ds=12/2008>

First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will be asked to comment on:

- alcohol abuse
- staff safety in Welsh hospitals
- services for AIDS patients
- tackling obesity
- supporting vulnerable children.

Read the full list of questions in here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=107095&ds=12/2008>

Legislation for carers

In Tuesday's plenary session, the Deputy Minister will deliver a statement on the proposed Carers Legislative Competence Order (LCO). The order would place a statutory requirement on health bodies and providers of social services to identify carers and inform them of their rights.

More information on the order and its progress is available on the link below:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislation-progress-lcos-measures.htm#carers>

Debate on the final budget

AMs will debate the final budget for 2009-10 in plenary on Tuesday. An explanatory note on changes between the draft budget proposals and the final

budget is available on the link below. Information on changes to the health and social services budget is on page 4.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=108019&ds=12/2008>

Last week at the Assembly

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee has published its future work programme, which is available to read 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=107603&ds=12/2008>

Members of the committee discussed the paper in their most recent meeting, during which they earmarked the following areas for possible future inquiry:

- restructuring of the NHS, including the interface between health and social care
- a “blue-sky review” of health service needs over the next 10 to 20 years, how it is funded and models of care
- public health – how the NHS will cope with increasing demand on its services
- protecting vulnerable children – the role of children’s social services

Read the full transcript of their discussion 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=108734&ds=12/2008#rhif4>

First Minister’s Questions

Public defibrillator scheme

So far, 50 defibrillators have been installed throughout Wales with training provided to over 500 volunteers in basic life support and use of the defibrillator machines.

Deaf awareness

The Assembly Government is providing £315,000 in funding to Deaf Association Wales, the Royal National Institute for Deaf People Cymru, Sense Cymru and the Wales Council for the Deaf to support their activities to promote deaf awareness.

Read the transcript in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=108075&ds=12/2008#rhif1>

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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