

# Bay Watch

9 March 2009



## 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.

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## Last week at the Assembly

### First Minister's Questions

#### Stroke services

The First Minister accepted that stroke services in Wales must improve. An additional £2.5 million has been made available to support improvements.

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=119180&ds=3/2009#2>

#### Swansea children's services

The Deputy Minister for Social Services gave a statement on the progress made by Swansea council since a 2007 inspection of its children's services. The Deputy Minister said that improvements had been insufficient and leadership had not been adequate. She is considering making an Order under section 84 of the Children Act 1989 declaring the council in default of certain functions in relation to the provision of children's social services.

Read the Deputy Minister's statement here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=119180&ds=3/2009#4>

### Safeguarding personal data

Responding to information that there have been more than 150 incidents of lost data in the Welsh health service in the last three years, Liberal Democrat health spokesperson, Peter Black, called on the government to put clear rules in place regarding how data should be handled, to ensure that there are clear safeguards and ensure that sensitive data is properly encoded and encrypted.

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, Andrew Davies, supported the motion from the Liberal Democrats and acknowledged there is sometimes an "ambivalent attitude" towards the collection of data within public services. The Minister reported "well advanced" procurement of encryption products for the NHS.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=119482&ds=3/2009#6>

### Local Service Boards

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, Andrew Davies, has issued a written response to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee's inquiry into Local Service Boards, published in December.

In his response, the Minister accepted all the committee's recommendations, which included commitments to:

- provide clarity on the role of LSBs;
- provide a common definition of LSBs more easily understood by the public;
- ensure that the new NHS bodies fully engage in the LSB model.

Read the committee's report here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7339-e.pdf>

And the Minister's response here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=119128&ds=3/2009>

## Press releases issued

### *More frontline NHS staff than ever before*

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/nhsstaff/?lang=en>

### *£20.7m for capital improvements in the NHS*

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/090302improvements/?lang=en>

## This week at the Assembly

### Statement on NHS Restructuring

In Tuesday's plenary, the Minister for Health and Social Services, Edwina Hart, will make a statement on the close of the Delivering the new NHS for Wales consultation. The Minister is scheduled to deliver her statement at 2.45pm.

See Tuesday's full agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=119141&ds=3/2009>

## Questions to the Health Minister

In Wednesday's plenary, the Minister will take questions on:

- the availability of NHS orthodontic treatment
- autism services
- improving access to NHS care
- the ambulance service
- tackling vascular diseases
- recruitment and retention of NHS staff
- services for the elderly and mentally infirm
- tackling childhood obesity
- the role of CHCs
- improving the health of people in Swansea
- progress of reorganisation in North Wales
- maternity services in Newport
- sleep apnoea
- Gwent Clinical Futures programme
- infertility clinics.

Read the full list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=118330&ds=3/2009>

## Local Service Boards

AMs will debate the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee's report on the progress of Local Service Boards in Wednesday's plenary.

See the agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=119444&ds=3/2009>

## Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee

In its Thursday meeting, the committee will elect a new Chair after the departure of Jonathan Morgan from the role of Conservative health spokesperson. The committee will also continue its inquiry into

community mental health services, hearing evidence from Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, Health Inspectorate Wales and the Association of Directors of Social Services Wales.

See more detail in Thursday's agenda:  
<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=119489&ds=3/2009>

### Ambulance Service

The Audit Committee will discuss the Wales Audit Office follow-up review of the Ambulance Service in Wales, and will hear from Alan Murray, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, along with Finance Director, Tim Woodhead and NHS Wales Chief Executive, Paul Williams.

Read the Wales Audit Office report here:  
<http://www.assemblywales.org/agr-ld7418-e.pdf>

View the agenda for Wednesday's meeting here:  
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=119608&ds=3/2009>

### European committee

The European and External Affairs committee will continue its inquiry into patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. On Tuesday, committee members will hear from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the British Dental Association Wales.

View Tuesday's agenda here:  
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-eur-home/bus-committees-third-eur-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=117971&ds=3/2009>

### Questions to the First Minister

The First Minister will be asked to comment on what steps are being taken to improve the NHS and promote healthy eating in poorer communities.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=118065&ds=3/2009>

### Access to medicines

The Welsh Conservatives have proposed a debate in Wednesday's plenary in which they will express concern that patients in Wales do not have parity of access to medicines. They will call on the government to improve accountability for drug provision decisions.

See more detail in Wednesday's agenda:  
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=119444&ds=3/2009>

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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](http://www.welshconfed.org)