

Bay Watch

30 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.

If you have any queries about this publication, please contact jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org

Last Week at the Assembly

Restructuring

The Minister for Health and Social Services has begun the legal process of establishing six new Local Health Boards. In an explanatory memorandum on the constitution, membership and procedures to establish the new LHBs, the Minister confirms her intention to introduce a Director of Therapies and Health Science.

Read the memorandum here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=123011&ds=3/2009>

E.Coli Inquiry

The First Minister delivered a statement on the findings of Professor Pennington's inquiry into the E.Coli outbreak. The First Minister highlighted the swift reaction of the NPHS outbreak control team, whose "prompt and effective action" limited the spread of the infection. He also paid tribute to the clinical care of those who went to hospital or were treated by their GP or community nurses.

Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=122812&ds=3/2009#3>

First Minister's Questions

Palliative care hospices

Conservative health spokesperson, Andrew RT Davies, raised the issue of whether Local Health Boards should pay for the core services provided by hospices. The First Minister intends to discuss with Edwina Hart whether there is an existing definition of what "core services" are.

Ambulance handover times

The First Minister refuted calls to increase capacity in hospitals to solve the problem of lengthy handover times at busy A&E departments. He said the issue was not about bed numbers, but about "clinical leadership and effective systems".

Maintenance of the NHS estate

Health Minister, Edwina Hart, recently issued a "substantive capital programme" to help modernise the NHS hospital estate, which should address "less glamorous" issues such as fire safety standards.

Preventing smoking among young people

The First Minister will look into the results of successful programmes in California and Canada to see if best practice could be implemented here in

Wales.

Read the transcript of the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=122812&ds=3/2009#1>

Supplementary budget

The motion to approve the supplementary budget, proposed by Finance Minister Andrew Davies, was carried by Assembly Members. During his statement, the Minister highlighted the £84 million from revenue reserves that has been allocated to the Department for Health and Social Services to progress the waiting times commitment.

Read the statement here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=122812&ds=3/2009#8>

And read the budget here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=119369&ds=3/2009>

Children's services in Swansea

The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, announced that she has made an Order under section 84 of the Children Act 1989, declaring the City and County of Swansea to be in default of certain of its functions in relation to the provision of children's social services. It is the first time such an Order has been issued in respect of a local authority in Wales. The Deputy Minister will establish an intervention board, to be chaired by someone drawn from outside social services and local government.

Read the Deputy Minister's statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=122812&ds=3/2009#6>

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=123265&ds=4/2009#3>

Written questions

The Minister for Health and Social Services has issued written answers to questions on the following subjects:

Cost of campaigns to combat obesity

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=123265&ds=4/2009#3>

Cost of free prescriptions

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=122588&ds=4/2009#4>

Running costs of the National Advisory Board, funding for the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=122525&ds=4/2009#3>

Press releases issued

Pioneering councils sought to support vulnerable children

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090323children/?lang=en>

Appointments to the Care Council for Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090323carecouncil/?lang=en>

This Week at the Assembly

Local Service Boards

In Wednesday's plenary session, AMs will debate the

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee report on Local Service Boards. Recommendations from the report included calls for the government to: provide clarity on the role of LSBs; provide a common definition of LSBs more easily understood by the public; and ensure that the new NHS bodies fully engage in the LSB model.

Read the report here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=109556&ds=12/2008>

And the response from the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery 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>

Questions to the First Minister

The First Minister will be asked to comment on the impact of the European Working Time Directive on hospitals in South Wales East.

Read the full list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=121491&ds=4/2009>

Citizen access

In Tuesday's plenary session, AMs will debate citizen involvement in the delivery of public services. The Assembly Government will call upon AMs to recognise its commitment to applying citizen-centred principles across the public sector.

See more detail in Tuesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=122744&ds=4/2009>

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=122744&ds=4/2009>

Epilepsy services

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire, Conservative) has proposed a debate examining the future of epilepsy services in Wales.

See more detail in Wednesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=123064&ds=4/2009>

CAFCASS inquiry

The Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee will continue its inquiry into the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service, hearing evidence from the All Wales Heads of Children's Services Group, and Caerphilly and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Councils.

See more detail in Thursday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third-1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=123341&ds=4/2009>

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