

Bay Watch

29 June 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

Questions to the First Minister

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire) asked the Deputy First Minister to outline what the Welsh Assembly Government is doing to promote health and wellbeing in our communities.

In response the Deputy First Minister said, “*We are passionate about improving the health of the people of Wales and are delivering our ‘One Wales’ commitment to invest £190 million in public health. This includes measures such as the Welsh network of healthy school schemes, Stop Smoking Wales, and mental health first aid.*”

Read the full session here

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=134379&ds=6/2009#1>

Conservative debate - Palliative Care

Conservative health spokesperson - Andrew RT Davies called on the Government to meet the aspirations of the Sugar review with regard to service level agreements for hospice providers. He went on to say that the Conservatives regretted the inequitable access to palliative care in Wales—a description he felt was backed by the Government’s

own analysis of palliative care in July 2008 which described it as ‘*patchy*’. He further stated that this demonstrates clearly that there is a lack of resource, or a need for more resource, in palliative care services.

Helen Mary Jones, Plaid Cymru health spokesperson responded by saying she could not support the motion, as it appeared to ignore the fact that the Government had already acknowledged that access to palliative care services has, historically, been inequitable, and that the Government is addressing that through the palliative care implementation board, making substantial and sustained investment in hospices and, importantly, in palliative care more broadly.

The Minister for Health and Social Services responded by saying that the Conservative motion failed to recognise any of the changes and improvements that have been made since the commissioning of the Sugar report and the setting up of the implementation group. She went on to say that the Government was now really starting to get its act together on palliative care in Wales.

Read the full debate here

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=134768&ds=6/2009#ceids>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

On Thursday 25 June the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee met to take evidence for their Inquiry into Stroke Services .

Other business included looking at correspondence from the Chair of Audit Committee regarding Maternity Services in Wales.

Read further detail here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm>

Press releases issued

Health Minister announces location for north Wales kidney dialysis unit

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090626dialysis/?lang=en>

Ministers seek views on rural health plan for Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090624ruralhealthplan/?lang=en>

New glaucoma treatment to be piloted

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090624glaucoma/?lang=en>

Progress on One Wales commitment to support social care

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090623socialcare/?lang=en>

This week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will be asked to make a statement on proposals to improve hospital experiences for NHS patients.

Read the full list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=133034&ds=7/2009>

Stage 1 debate on General Principles of the proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure

A debate will take place on the above measure.

See more detail in Wednesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=134362&ds=7/2009>

Questions for Minister for Health and Social Services

Questions will include: -

- Being asked to make a statement on her targets for the Welsh NHS.
- Being asked what discussions she has had regarding stroke services
- What new practical measures does the Welsh Assembly Government propose for mental health services in Wales.
- Joint commissioning for epilepsy services across health and social services

Read the full agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=133584&ds=7/2009>

Evidence on Mental Health LCO

Jonathan Morgan AM will be giving evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee Inquiry - Pre-legislative scrutiny of the proposed Legislative Competence Order in Council relating to Mental Health, on Thursday 2nd July.

For more information: -

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/welsh_affairs_committee.cfm

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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