

# Bay Watch

6 October 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](mailto:jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org)

## Last Week at the Assembly

### Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

#### *Llandudno Hospital*

With an investment of between £20-45 million required, the Minister said a staged approach may be required.

#### *Attacks on NHS staff*

The successful "Pubwatch" scheme in North Wales may be rolled out to other parts of Wales. The Minister added that it was important the new LHBs continue to have "champions" to deal with violence and aggression during the restructuring.

#### *Ambulance Trust*

Helen Mary Jones (Llanelli, Plaid Cymru) asked the Minister whether structural change might be needed in the ambulance trust, to which the Minister responded by saying she has been pleased with the improvements in the ambulance trust's performance, with the figures in north Wales looking particularly good.

#### *Kidney dialysis*

The Minister confirmed that Powys remains a priority area for the expansion of dialysis services. She will be taking advice from advisers on how to deal with the particular challenges in Powys.

#### *Junior doctor shortage*

The Minister has asked the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Stephen Hunt, and the deanery to explore the problem of recruiting junior doctors in rural areas. She added that a tremendous amount of work was ongoing to try to resolve the issues.

#### *Emergency services*

Serious problems at A&E departments in Morriston Hospital, the Royal Gwent and the University Hospital of Wales are starting to be resolved but there are still people attending A&E rather than their GPs, and more work is needed in this area.

For the full transcript, please click here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=144884&ds=9/2009#q1>

### Eye care debate

The Conservatives called upon the government to improve services for the early detection and treatment of eye conditions. In particular, they called for free school eye tests for all four to seven year olds, and a review of the optometrists' contract. David Melding (South Wales Central, Conservatives) highlighted the role of employers in ensuring employees who use computer screens have access to eye care.

In response, the Health Minister agreed that investing now would save money later. She pointed to the areas of good work that has been carried out across Wales to screen for eye conditions, and said she would be meeting optometrists to discuss their contract in the coming week, but in the context of budgetary considerations.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=144884&ds=9/2009#cons>

## This Week at the Assembly

### In Plenary

*Tuesday*

**The First Minister** will answer questions on:

- the performance of the ambulance service
- Professor Pennington's e-coli report
- spending priorities and the draft budget.

The Minister for Health and Social Services will make a statement on **palliative care**.

In a debate on the **Older People's Strategy** Annual Report, the Liberal Democrats will argue that there has been a lack of collaboration between health and social services.

To read the report, please use the link below:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/olderpeople/publications/olderpeoplestrategyreport0809/?lang=en>

For more details, please see Tuesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=144543&ds=10/2009>

*Wednesday*

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery will be asked to make a statement on **budgetary pressures** in health and social services.

AMs will debate the European and External Affairs Committee's report on patients' right in **cross-border healthcare**. The Welsh NHS Confederation were amongst those who gave evidence to the committee during its inquiry.

View 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=137267&ds=7/2009>

And the Health Minister's response to 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=144578&ds=10/2009>

For more detail, please see Wednesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=144835&ds=10/2009>

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**  
CONFFEDERASIWN **GIG CYMRU**



Unit 3  
Waterton Park  
Bridgend  
CF31 3PH

Tel 0845 33 00 499  
E-mail [info@welshconfed.org](mailto: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](http://www.welshconfed.org)