

Bay Watch

20 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

Last Week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

Drug rehabilitation services

The First Minister said the government has created 10,000 substance misuse treatment places since 2003/04, but admitted that "we have not solved the problem".

Free prescriptions

The First Minister confirmed categorically that the free prescriptions policy for all would continue.

Ambulance service

The First Minister said the situation has improved substantially in recent months, but that "patchiness" across Wales needs to be removed.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=147353&ds=10/2009#1>

The First Minister issued a written answer to a question on the UK Government's Green Paper, "Shaping the future of care together." The First Minister confirmed that it would have implications for Wales but that the Welsh Assembly Government would be producing its own Green Paper on paying for care in November.

See the full answer here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/>

[bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=147351&ds=10/2009](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=147351&ds=10/2009)

Violence against women debate

In a plenary debate, Mark Isherwood, Shadow Minister for Social Justice, Equality and Housing, claimed the cost to the NHS of domestic abuse in Wales could be £60 million. He called on the government to develop an integrated strategy, to encompass all forms of violence against women, and not domestic abuse alone.

Nerys Evans (Mid and West Wales, Plaid Cymru) explained the need for a strategy to be developed across social justice, health, education and housing, with strong links to non-devolved departments such as the Crown Prosecution Service.

In response, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Dr Brian Gibbons, said a new draft plan already extends beyond the narrow domestic abuse agenda. He said there was a real commitment amongst all his cabinet colleagues to contribute to a cross-departmental response. He also added that ante-natal and A&E care pathways are being developed to support victims as early warning signs are identified.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=147653&ds=10/2009#12>

Press releases issued

Reports outline improvements to adult neuroscience services

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/091016/neuroscience/?lang=en>

Health Minister to launch new project to help older people

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/091016/olderpeople/?lang=en>

Improved safeguarding arrangements go live in Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/091012safeguarding/?lang=en>

Experts sought to lead new eating disorder teams

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/091009/eatingdisorder/?lang=en>

This Week at the Assembly

In plenary

Tuesday

The First Minister will be asked to comment on:

- the health and social services draft budget,
- the UK Government's Green Paper on the future of care services,
- support for Armed Forces with post traumatic stress disorder.

The Deputy Minister for Social Services will make a statement on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

See Tuesday's agenda in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=147323&ds=10/2009>

Wednesday

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government will answer questions on drug treatment services, domestic

abuse, and joint working between "blue-light" services.

See Wednesday's agenda in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=147608&ds=10/2009>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will continue its inquiry into stroke services hearing evidence from:

- Riks Stroke, Sweden (via video link)
- College of Occupational Therapists
- Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

The agenda for Wednesday's meeting is available 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=147819&ds=10/2009>

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will hear evidence from Paul Davies, Finance Director of Cardiff and Vale University LHB, and David Lewis, Finance Director of Cwm Taf Local Health Board, on behalf of NHS Wales Finance Directors.

Their written evidence is available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-fin-home/bus-committees-third-fin-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=147617&ds=10/2009>

The committee will also hear evidence from the Welsh Local Government Association and the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.

See more detail in the agenda for Thursday's meeting:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-fin-home/bus-committees-third-fin-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=147188&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

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