

Bay Watch

23 November 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

This Week at the Assembly

In plenary

Tuesday

The First Minister will be asked to comment on health services for north Wales, Multiple Sclerosis, diabetes and health inequalities.

Also on Tuesday, AMs will debate the government's progress implementing One Wales commitments. The One Wales document can be accessed here: <http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgovernment/1wales/?lang=en>

See Tuesday's full agenda here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=152876&ds=11/2009>

Wednesday

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government will be asked to comment on support for disabled people in Wales, victims of sexual assault and victims of domestic abuse.

AMs will also debate the Queen's Speech, including

the proposed Personal Care at Home Bill.

See Wednesday's agenda in full here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=153156&ds=11/2009>

Wheelchair inquiry

The Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee will hear evidence from the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

See the full agenda for Wednesday's meeting 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=153310&ds=11/2009>

Last Week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

NHS Continuing Healthcare

The First Minister said that the cut-off date for retrospective continuing healthcare claims has been adequately publicised through adverts in the

Western Mail and through writing formally to all organisations with an interest, including third sector organisations.

Health inequalities

In response to concerns raised about health inequalities, the First Minister said that the impact of amending people's lifestyles is "much greater than anything that we can do inside the hospital or even in GP surgeries."

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=152972&ds=11/2009#1>

The First Minister issued a written response to a question about rural health services, which is available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=152911&ds=11/2009>

Draft budget debate

The Finance Committee has issued its report on the Draft Budget 2010/11. In the report, the committee asks the Minister for Health and Social Services to set out the financial arguments and anticipated savings expected to be delivered by the NHS reorganisation.

Read the report in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7787-e.pdf>

In a plenary debate on the report, several AMs queried the £50m currently unallocated within the health and social services budget. The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery said the money is a reserve to deal with "emerging pressures", such as swine flu. He said that making best use of the health service budget was not about structures, but about the way services are delivered.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=152972&ds=11/2009#5>

Paying for Care in Wales Green Paper

The Deputy Minister for Social Services launched the government's Green Paper on Paying for Care in Wales. A 15-week consultation period has begun, which will include three national stakeholder events, a leafleting campaign and a dedicated website.

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=152972&ds=11/2009#3>

Safeguarding and Protecting Children

AMs debated recent reports from HIW and CSSIW regarding arrangements in place for the safeguarding and protection of children in Wales. The Deputy Minister for Social Services said that the government has already taken action to respond to concerns raised in the reports. She said that LHBs must notify all partner organisations and the Welsh Assembly Government by the end of November of the names of those within their organisations who have lead responsibility. Professor Mansel Aylward, chair of Public Health Wales, has also been asked to consider the concerns raised by children's charities during and after the consultation on the health service reform.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=152972&ds=11/2009#6>

Strokes

The Members' Research Service has published a research paper on strokes in Wales.

Read the report here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/09-033.pdf>

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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

