

Bay Watch

1 December 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

Equality of Opportunity Committee

The committee will hear evidence from the Minister for Health and Social Services and Dr Jane Wilkinson, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, as part of its inquiry into discrimination against people living with HIV by health professionals. Also giving evidence in Tuesday's meeting is:

- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Midwives
- Cardiff University School of Medicine.

Also included in the papers for the meeting is additional written evidence submitted by the Welsh NHS Confederation, available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-eoc-home/bus-committees-third-eoc-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=154748&ds=12/2009>

See Tuesday's agenda in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-eoc-home/bus-committees-third-eoc-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=154222&ds=12/2009>

In plenary

Tuesday

The First Minister will be asked to comment on cuts to public services and increasing public awareness of AIDS.

AMs will debate the Annual Review of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

See more detail in Tuesday's agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=154025&ds=12/2009>

Wednesday

In Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Minister will answer questions on

- hospital vending machines
- the draft budget
- supporting NHS workers in north Wales
- supporting people with cancer
- recruitment of NHS staff
- fracture liaison services
- immunisation rates
- improving hospital food
- violence and aggression against NHS staff
- ambulance service
- support for young carers
- dental services

- midwifery services
- stroke services in Powys.

AMs will also debate the report on community mental health services, published by the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee in September.

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=141378&ds=9/2009>

And the response from the Health Minister here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=154039&ds=11/2009>

See Wednesday's agenda in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=154296&ds=12/2009>

Public Accounts Committee

The committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales on the recently published report, *Services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs*.

The report is available on the following link:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/gen-ld7797-e.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=GEN-LD7797%20-%20Services%20for%20children%20and%20young%20people%20with%20emotional%20and%20mental%20health%20needs>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will continue its inquiry into wheelchair services, hearing evidence from the Red Cross and Scope Cymru.

See Wednesday's full agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-scrutiny-committees/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=154465&ds=12/2009>

Last Week at the Assembly

Mental health reports

HIW published a report on a review of a homicide carried out by a mental health service user in Trecynon, Aberdare. The report, and the response from the Welsh Assembly Government, is available here:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/newsitem.cfm?contentid=13777>

A report on services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs was also published. The joint report by the Wales Audit Office, HIW, Estyn and CSSIW is available here:

http://www.wao.gov.uk/assets/englishdocuments/CAMHS_eng.pdf

First Minister's Questions

GP services

Jenny Randerson said that people in Cardiff are not getting the same level of treatment and service as the rest of Wales, with 38 GP surgeries in Cardiff currently registered as full. The First Minister said

that the gradual transferral of services to community pharmacies is one way the government is helping to reduce pressure on GP services.

NHS finances

The First Minister and the leader of the opposition, Nick Bourne, discussed how to make best use of the NHS budget. The First Minister agreed with the estimate that £1 billion could be utilised better if best clinical practice, such as more day-cases, avoidance of excessive follow-up appointments, and inappropriate hospital admissions, were to be spread across the health system.

Mental health services for young people

Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Kirsty Young, accused the Health Minister of arrogance in her response to the HIW report into child and adolescent mental health services. The First Minister maintained that the government would respond to the report's recommendations, but that many actions have already been taken to improve services for children and young people, including increased investment.

Read the transcript in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=154061&ds=11/2009#1>

Community Health Councils

In the business statement and announcement, Mark Isherwood (Conservative, North Wales) called for a ministerial statement on the future of community health councils. Mr Isherwood quoted a letter from the director of the Board of CHCs in Wales, in which she states that "patience...has truly expired" and that "the whole situation has now turned into a farce."

Read Mark Isherwood's request in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=154061&ds=11/2009#2>

The following day, the Minister for Health and Social Services issued the following written statement, in which she outlined her plans for the future of CHCs in Wales:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/newsitem.cfm?contentid=13756>

Maternity services

The transcript is now available of the Public Accounts Committee meeting in which Paul Williams, chief executive of NHS Wales; Simon Dean, director of strategy and planning; and Rosemary Kennedy, chief nursing officer, gave evidence on maternity services in Wales. The representatives were asked to comment on the strategic priority given to maternity services in NHS Wales.

Read the transcript here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=153892&ds=12/2009#maternity>

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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