

# Bay Watch

Issue 72

15 December 2009

The Welsh NHS Confederation would like to wish all our Bay Watch readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## 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

### Final budget

AMs debated and voted to pass the Final Budget for 2010/11. Angela Burns, Chair of the Finance Committee, which scrutinised the budget, raised concerns about the portion of the health and social care budget which has not yet been allocated. Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd, Labour) welcomed the increased funds for mental health.

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, Andrew Davies, said the budget would “deliver better outcomes for tougher times” and launched a new policy paper of the same title. *Better Outcomes for Tougher Times* sets out the next phase of the Assembly Government’s public service improvement programme.

*Better Outcomes for Tougher Times* is available here: <http://cymru.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/strategy/betteroutcomes/?lang=en&ts=3>

Read the debate on the final budget in full here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=156783&ds=12/2009#6>

A copy of the final budget is available here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=155217&ds=12/2009>

### First Minister’s questions

#### *Multiple sclerosis*

Mark Isherwood (North Wales, Conservative) called for Multiple Sclerosis patients to have more independent control of the budget for their care. Rhodri Morgan said frailer patients with more severe MS and other long-term conditions would not be able to access the benefits. He added that it would be a difficult balancing act to make sure the system would not benefit one group over another.

#### *Young carers*

The First Minister said that the proposed Measure on carers, to be published in the New Year, would take into account the needs of young carers.

#### *Neonatal care*

Rhodri Morgan said there is a need for a specialist neonatal care unit in north Wales. He added: “We will publish as soon as we can the decision as to which of the three major hospitals in north Wales will house this paediatric, neonatal, special care unit”.

Read the session in full here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=156783&ds=12/2009#2>

At the end of Tuesday’s plenary session, the First Minister delivered his resignation statement. Read the statement in full here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/>

[bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=156783&ds=12/2009#8](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=156783&ds=12/2009#8)

### Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

Jonathan Morgan (Cardiff North, Conservative) called upon the Minister to ask the Wales Audit Office to investigate claims that up to £1 billion of NHS money could be better spent. The Minister felt that it would be more appropriate for Mr Morgan, as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, to call for the Auditor General for Wales to look at the issue.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=157038&ds=12/2009#1>

### Mental health LCO

Jonathan Morgan's motion to approve the Mental Health LCO was passed unanimously by all AMs present, which means the Order will now be passed to Westminster to be debated by MPs and Lords. There was strong cross-party support for the Assembly to have legislative competence to create its own legislation in the area of mental health. The broad theme of the Order is to give people the right to mental health assessment, treatment and independent advocacy. The Health Minister said there will be opportunities for stakeholders to share their views during the development of the future measure.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=157038&ds=12/2009#6>

The National Assembly for Wales is in recess over the Christmas period. *Bay Watch* will return in January 2010.

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)