

Bay Watch

18th January 2010



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

- funding for the voluntary sector,
- plans to create a Critical Care Centre at Llanfrechfa Grange,
- priorities for the health service.

AMs will debate the Annual Report of the **Older People's Commissioner for Wales**.

AMs will also debate, and vote to approve, the proposed **Social Care Changes Measure**. The aim of the Measure is to create a fairer system for local authorities to adopt when charging for non-residential social care services.

See more information in Tuesday's full agenda: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=160890&ds=1/2010>

Wednesday

In questions to the **Minister for Budget and Business**, Jane Hutt will be asked to comment on budgetary pressures in the Health and Social Services portfolio.

In a **Conservative-proposed debate**, the Conservatives will call on the government to "safeguard the funding of frontline NHS services" in light of economic pressures. The Liberal Democrats will argue that the Assembly Government must investigate claims that up to a fifth of the NHS budget is not being spent effectively.

In a separate health debate in Wednesday's plenary, the **Liberal Democrats** will call upon the government to bring the NHS estate "up to standard." The Assembly Government will argue that there has been substantial increase in capital expenditure within the NHS over recent years.

In a **short debate** postponed from December, Mark Isherwood (Shadow Minister for Social Justice, Equality and Housing) will raise the issue of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

More information is available in Wednesday's agenda: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=161253&ds=1/2010>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The Committee will continue its inquiry into wheelchair services in Wales. Management representatives from Besti Cadwaladr University

Health Board and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board will be giving evidence in Thursday's meeting. The committee will also hear evidence from physiotherapy and occupational therapy representatives.

Written evidence from the Artificial Limb and Appliance Service in both north and south Wales has been submitted and is available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-scrutiny-committees/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm>

In a private session, committee members will discuss a proposed future inquiry into Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

More detail is available in Thursday's agenda:

<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=161674&ds=1/2010>

Last Week at the Assembly

Equality of Opportunity Committee

Representatives from NHS organisations gave evidence to the committee's inquiry into discrimination against people living with HIV by health professionals. They said there was no "silver bullet" to eradicate discrimination, adding that equality and discrimination must be integrated into everything that the NHS does. The representatives from Betsi Cadwaladr LHB, ABM LHB, and Velindre NHS Trust described initiatives being implemented in their organisations to create a culture of equality and diversity.

The transcript for the meeting is not yet available but an update will be included in Bay Watch when the transcript has been published.

First Minister's Questions

Time to care

Val Lloyd (Swansea East, Labour) raised a successful initiative in Morriston Hospital, where nursing staff were able to increase time spent on patient care by 52%. The First Minister said he would discuss the scheme with the Minister for Health and Social Services to investigate its effectiveness.

Ambulance Service

The First Minister said that the Ambulance service's performance has improved considerably. Leader of the Conservatives, Nick Bourne, called upon the government to raise the target where the target is currently being reached with ease.

Read the transcript in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=161030&ds=1/2010#q1>

Personal Care at Home Bill

Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, argued that the Parliamentary Personal Care at Home Bill should extend to Wales to ensure that the Assembly Government has the relevant powers to develop the policy for charging for social care services in Wales.

The Bill seeks to implement the UK Government's proposal to introduce, from October 2010, free personal care in the home for adults in England who have high-level care needs.

The Deputy Minister added that the Paying for Care in Wales consultation is continuing, based on the approach of securing more consistent charging for all those receiving care, as opposed to that of providing free personal care for those with the highest needs.

See the transcript in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=161030&ds=1/2010>

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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