

Bay Watch

2nd March 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

Carers' Strategy Committee

Legislation Committee No. 5 will continue to hear evidence on the proposed Carer's Strategy (Wales) Measure. The Welsh NHS Confederation has co-ordinated an evidence session with the following NHS representatives for Wednesday's meeting:

- Dr Ed Roberts, Vice-Chair, ABM Local Health Board
- Peter Llewellyn, Head of Partnerships and Integrated Commissioning, Hywel Dda Local Health Board

Written evidence compiled by the Welsh NHS Confederation is available here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-perm-leg/bus-committees-third-lc5-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=169760&ds=3/2010>

Also giving evidence on Wednesday are Carers Wales and the Wales Carers Alliance.

For more information, the agenda for Wednesday's meeting is available here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-perm-leg/bus-committees-third-lc5-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=169635&ds=3/2010>

NHS debate

In a plenary debate on Wednesday, the Conservatives will claim that there is a lack of accountability and transparency in the running of the Welsh NHS. The Liberal Democrats will call upon the Assembly Government to "revise its decision not to investigate the claim that up to a fifth of the health budget is not being spent effectively".

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=169309&ds=3/2010>

Dementia debate

Also in Wednesday's plenary session, AMs will debate dementia services. The Conservatives will call on the Welsh Assembly Government to publish their National Dementia Plan for Wales as soon as possible. In response, the government will argue that the National Dementia Plan is being taken forward by a group including representatives from the NHS, local government and the third sector.

More information is available here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=169309&ds=3/2010>

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The Minister will be asked to comment on:

- priorities for the next 12 months
- outstanding Continuing Health Care funding claims
- the maintenance backlog in the NHS estate
- tackling obesity
- social care services for children
- mental health services for young people
- health services in Powys
- introducing a minimum price for alcohol in Wales
- co-operative models of health service delivery
- missed hospital appointments
- services designed to prevent or delay Continuing NHS Healthcare
- access to renal services
- the content of vending machines in hospitals
- hospital waiting times
- GP appointment systems.

Read the list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=167815&ds=3/2010>

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will continue its inquiry into wheelchair services, hearing evidence from the All-Wales Posture Mobility Steering Group and the Minister for Health and Social Services.

In a private session, committee members will discuss their draft report into stroke services.

For more information, see 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=169638&ds=3/2010>

Public Accounts Committee

The Committee will discuss home oxygen therapy services and violence and aggression in NHS Wales.

More detail is available in the agenda for Wednesday's meeting:

<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=169478&ds=3/2010>

First Minister's Questions

The First Minister will be asked to comment on increasing the number of not-for-profit nursing homes and care home reorganisation.

Read the list of questions in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=167583&ds=3/2010>

Rural Debate

In Tuesday's plenary, AMs will hold the postponed debate on the Deep Rural Localities report by the Wales Rural Observatory. The report discusses access to health services in deep rural areas, and the local population's satisfaction with these services.

The report is available here:

http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/reports/english/2009/DeepRuralReport_Oct09.pdf

For more information, Tuesday's agenda is available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=168959&ds=3/2010>

Last Week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

Community Health Councils

Conservative spokesperson, Andrew RT Davies, raised concerns about the reduction in the number of members

of community health councils in relation to their local populations. The First Minister expressed his confidence that the structure now in place allows for the patient's voice to be heard in the health service. Mr Jones later added: "You cannot just look at population; it is the representation of communities that is important and the community health councils are providing that representation in Wales."

Ambulance response times

The First Minister said: "Figures have improved in that fewer people have to wait as long for ambulances, and we want to ensure that they continue to improve in future."

Outpatient waiting times

Leader of the Opposition, Nick Bourne, said the number of people waiting more than 10 weeks for an appointment had risen from more than 6,000 to over 28,000 in just one month. The First Minister maintained that substantial progress had been made, but the figure would need to be examined to ensure that it was a "blip" and not a long-term trend.

Community Safety Partnerships

The First Minister issued a written statement to a question on community safety partnerships in north Wales, in which he said that £5.6 million of funding has been made available to the CSPs in North Wales to support their work.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=168923&ds=2/2010#2>

Rural areas

The debate on the deep rural areas was postponed until 2nd March.

Written questions round-up

The Minister for Health and Social Services has issued written answers to questions on:

Number of NHS dental patients registered in north Wales, improvements to foot care services, and the funding to

extend neonatal transport services to 24 hours:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=169527&ds=3/2010#3>

Number of tamiflu doses used:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=169506&ds=3/2010#4>

Cancelled operations at Bronglais hospital, provision of defibrillators in south Wales, performance of Cardiff and Vale University LHB:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=169481&ds=3/2010#6>

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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