

Bay Watch

17 May 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

Tuesday

Plenary

The First Minister will be asked to comment on tackling alcohol abuse and school nurses.

- cancer services in Rhondda Cynon Taff
- dental services in North Wales
- asbestos related diseases.

In a Conservative proposed debate, AMs will discuss cancer services in Wales.

In a Liberal Democrat proposed debate, AMs will discuss services for people with osteoporosis.

Wednesday

Plenary

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

- improvements to medical services in Llandudno Hospital
- funding of specialised and tertiary services following the replacement of Health Commission Wales
- waiting times
- asthma services
- IVF policy
- reduce the number of suicides
- free prescriptions
- cardiac services
- key NHS performance indicators
- handover times at the A&E Department of the Royal Gwent Hospital

Thursday

The Proposed Mental Health (Wales) Measure Committee

The Committee will hear evidence from the Children's Commissioner for Wales, and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

See the Business Notice for the week in full here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-notice.htm>

Last Week at the Assembly

Questions to the First Minister

Post Traumatic Stress Services for Veterans

The First Minister outlined plans to roll out a veterans'

community mental health service across Wales from this spring. It will be funded by the government, with an investment of £485,000 per year.

Breast cancer screening

The First Minister said action is being taken to deal with an “unfortunate” shortage of radiographers in some rural parts of Wales.

Delayed transfers of care

Since September 2003, recorded delays have halved and delay lengths are down by 71 per cent.

Dementia plan

In an oral statement in plenary, the Health Minister outlined the work of the four stakeholder groups on the dementia plan, stating that: “it is now time to focus on operational delivery and genuine meaningful service improvements.” The newly established adult mental health programme board, chaired by Mary Burrows, will take forward the work to turn the proposals into action.

Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=180732&ds=5/2010#4>

Efficient Public Spending

Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Kirsty Williams, outlined ways in which she believed the government has spent money inefficiently, quoting claims that a fifth of the NHS budget is not being spent effectively.

In response, the Minister for Business and Budget said that the public services summits are driving forward programmes to promote greater efficiency and innovation. She added that over £11 million has been invested in the invest-to-save fund, with many successful bids from the NHS.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=180970&ds=5/2010#dadldemocrats>

Mental Health (Wales) Measure Committee

Mary Burrows, chief executive, and Dr Lyndon Miles, vice chair of Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB gave evidence to the committee. They welcomed the focus that the Measure places upon mental health services in Wales, and gave their commitment to ensuring that service users receive the appropriate support. They added that using legal powers to guarantee such principles will have implications and consequences for health boards, which should be clearly acknowledged and reconciled at the outset.

More information on the Measure is available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-perm-leg/bus-legislation-committees-lc3.htm>

The Equality of Opportunity Committee

The committee has published its report on the inquiry into discrimination against people living with HIV by healthcare professionals.

The report is available to download here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld8059-e.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