

# Bay Watch

24 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](mailto:jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org)

## This Week at the Assembly

### Tuesday

#### Plenary

The First Minister will answer questions on the Welsh Assembly Government's budget, and substance misuse services.

The Minister for Health and Social Services will make a statement on spiritual care in the NHS.

### Wednesday

#### Plenary

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government will be asked to comment on increasing the budget for local government, and violence against women.

### Thursday

#### Mental Health (Wales) Measure Committee

The committee will hear evidence from the Minister for Health and Social Services.

#### Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will continue its inquiry into Local

Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), hearing evidence from local government, LSCB co-ordinators, and Public Health Wales.

This week's full Business Notice is available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-notice.htm>

## Last Week at the Assembly

### Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

#### *Capital spending*

The all-Wales capital programme is currently being reviewed in the context of a likely reduction in capital funding. The Minister confirmed that developments in Llandudno would remain a priority.

#### *Specialist Services*

The Minister is assured that the Welsh Health Specialised Services will work in a transparent way to ensure clarity for patients. However, the Minister remains concerned about elements of this and has asked Professor Mansel Aylward to look again at enhanced arrangements for transparency.

#### *Ambulance response times*

Response times have seen a "tangible overall

improvement", even considering the extreme weather conditions in December and January.

#### *Cardigan and Tregaron Community Hospitals*

The Minister gave assurances that developments in Cardigan and Tregaron would go ahead. Ms Hart added: "This has the full commitment of the Welsh Assembly Government in terms of the resources that will be made available."

#### *Powys merger*

The Minister is committed to the ongoing work between the local health board and the local authority in Powys, with good progress made recently. The Minister said she would not want any outstanding health debt to have an impact on what the new structures might be.

#### *Asthma services*

The Minister will follow-up the directive that requires asthma action to be provided to every child and young person with asthma. Full implementation of the action is required by December 2011.

#### *IVF*

The Minister is concerned that new Assembly Government policy is not cascading down through the service and that the correct information is not being given to patients. From 1st April 2010, the policy was changed to allow eligible couples two cycles of IVF treatment on the NHS, rather than one.

#### *Suicide prevention*

The Minister is "open to suggestions on this, because it is a difficult and important area that we need to deal with."

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=182821&ds=5/2010#q1>

### **Reports issued**

Legislation Committee no. 5 has published its report into the Proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure. The report is available to download here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=183005&ds=5/2010>

The Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee published its report on wheelchair services in Wales, available to download here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=182611&ds=5/2010>

### **Cancer services debate**

Conservative health spokesperson, Andrew RT Davies said that national cancer standards have "almost been cloaked in secrecy". He appealed for the government to introduce the role of a cancer co-ordinator to ensure that survival rates are amongst the best in Europe.

The Health Minister said Mr Davies had not recognised the improvements that have been made to date in cancer services in Wales. She added that more needs to be done to improve access to chemotherapy services in rural areas.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=182821&ds=5/2010#dadlcancer>

### **Osteoporosis debate**

Liberal Democrat health spokesperson, Peter Black, called for more progress in providing fracture liaison services for people with osteoporosis. He argued that the cost of rolling out fracture liaison services across Wales would be £2.81 million, but this would produce savings to the NHS and social services of around £2.98 million.

The Health Minister wants local health boards to have the responsibility for delivering and developing effective fracture liaison services that meet the requirements of the NSF for older people.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=182821&ds=5/2010#osteo>

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)