

Bay Watch

21 June 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 violence and aggression against NHS staff, neuromuscular services, improving public health and rural health services.

The Minister for Health and Social Services will make a statement on improving the availability of medicines.

Wednesday

Plenary

Questions to the Health Minister will cover the following topics:

- GP services in Neath Port Talbot
- care for vulnerable elderly people
- palliative care services
- supporting army veterans
- home care services for the elderly
- One Wales health pledges
- cross border health services
- increasing training opportunities in the NHS
- reviewing the process for approving capital expenditure projects
- rural services

- priorities for the next 12 months

AMs will debate the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's [report on Stroke Services](#).

In a Conservative proposed debate, AMs will discuss diabetes services.

Thursday

Public Accounts Committee

The committee will hear evidence from the NHS on "meeting the challenge in Welsh public sector finance." Giving evidence to the committee will be:

- Paul Williams - Director General, Health and Social Services and Chief Executive NHS Wales
- Simon Dean - Director of Strategy and Planning, Department of Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government
- Chris Hurst - Director of Finance, Department of Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government
- Jan Williams - Chief Executive, Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board
- Andrew Lewis - Director of Improvement and Innovation, Cardiff and Vale University Local Health Board

The committee will also hear evidence from Assembly officials as a six-month follow-up to the

joint report on services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs.

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The committee will hold a general scrutiny session for the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government. The committee will also hear evidence on the implementation of the Pennington Report recommendations from Professor Hugh Pennington, and Consumer Focus Wales.

See this week's Business Notice in full for further details:

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

Last Week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

GP services

The First Minister confirmed his opposition to the Conservative policy in England to give GPs commissioning responsibilities. He said: "With respect to doctors and nurses, they are not administrators. It is important that people can manage the health service to ensure that the resources are available to allow doctors and nurses to do their job properly." He added that the Health Minister would be making an announcement on the GP contract soon.

Training for NHS staff

The First Minister said it is "absolutely essential" that sufficient time for training is provided.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=186566&ds=6/2010#q1>

The First Minister issued written answers to questions on the efficiency of the health services,

and residential care home workforce development, available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=186593&ds=6/2010>

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee heard evidence from the Minister for Health and Social Services on the financial implications of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure. The Minister emphasised the "additionality" of the funds being made available and said the NHS has to make best use of the mental health funds it already has available.

The Minister also gave evidence to the committee on the allocation of capital funds, together with Paul Williams, chief executive of NHS Wales, and Chris Hurst, Director of Resources. Ms Hart stressed that in difficult financial times, maintenance of the NHS estate should remain a priority. Also discussed was the issue of the NHS and public sector partners working together on capital development for greater economies of scale e.g. co-location of ambulance and fire stations.

The transcript is not yet available, but written papers submitted by the Minister are available here:

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

Inquiry into Stroke Services

The Welsh Assembly Government has issued its response to the Health Wellbeing and Local Government's inquiry into stroke services in Wales, available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=186461&ds=6/2010>

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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