

Bay Watch

12th July 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 funding for GP services and improving mental health services.

The Minister for Business and Budget will make a statement on In Year Spending.

AMs will vote on a motion to approve the general principles of the Proposed Mental Health (Wales) Measure.

Wednesday

Plenary

The Minister for Business and Budget will answer questions on the Efficiency and Innovation Board, and her priorities for the Welsh Assembly Government budget.

Thursday

Finance Committee

The committee will hear evidence from Permanent Secretary, Dame Gillian Morgan, on Welsh Assembly

Government staff numbers and costs.

More information is available in this week's Business Notice

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

Last Week at the Assembly

Wheelchair services

AMs debated the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government committee's report into wheelchair services in Wales. Chair of the committee, Darren Millar, said the greatest challenges faced by the service are those of reducing waiting times and meeting users' needs. The report sets out a number of recommendations about the structure and strategic direction of the wheelchair service.

The Health Minister said the recommendations contained in the report fit closely with her current work programme and direction of travel. The Minister has established a project board under the chairmanship of Sue Kent, the vice chair of the Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board, to lead the work.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=190802&ds=7/2010#adrodd>

First Minister's Questions

Active lifestyles

The First Minister outlined schemes to help combat the lower than average uptake of physical activity in Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen, such as free swimming.

UK Budget

The First Minister is urging the UK Government to take note of the findings of the Holtham commission or, "at the very least, to impose a Barnett floor to ensure that Welsh public spending does not converge with English public spending to the detriment of this institution and the people of Wales."

Dementia services

The Minister for Health and Social Services has asked officials to develop a new system and vision to "ensure that services of the highest standard are available to people with dementia".

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=190376&ds=7/2010#5>

Public Accounts Committee

The committee heard evidence from Permanent Secretary, Dame Gillian Morgan, on how the Welsh Assembly Government is meeting the financial challenge in Welsh public services. Dame Morgan outlined how the Government is taking steps to make its own processes more efficient and release cash savings. Between January and June 2010, £5 million of savings have been achieved through tactical changes.

No transcript is available yet, but updates will be published in future editions of Bay Watch.

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

The First Minister gave an update on the recommendations of reports into the E.coli inquiry, and Local Service Boards. The Minister for Health and Social Services gave an update on the recommendations of reports into presumed consent for organ donation, and workforce planning.

No transcript is available yet, but updates will be published in future editions of Bay Watch.

Mental Health (Wales) Measure

The Finance Committee has published its report into the financial implications of the Proposed Mental Health (Wales) Measure Committee, available here: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=190802&ds=7/2010#adrodd>

Written questions

The Minister for Health and Social Services has issued written responses to questions on the following topics:

Breast Test Wales mobile screening units
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-written.htm?act=dis&id=190660&ds=7/2010#4>

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**
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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