

Bay Watch

19 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.

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Last Week at the Assembly

First Minister's Questions

Funding for GP services

The First Minister confirmed that changes in England would have no impact on Wales.

My Health online

The phased roll-out of My Health Online will begin in the autumn and will begin to be available to a number of early adopter GPs. The service will be available nationwide in spring 2011.

Out of hours services

The First Minister believes that Wales has "sufficient coverage in terms of out-of-hours staff". He added: "The experience of many will be that the accessibility of out-of-hours services has improved markedly."

Mental health services

The First Minister said that mental health is "probably now receiving better support and funding than it has for many years".

Eating disorder framework

The First Minister confirmed that there is a lead for Tier 3 services in place in every LHB in Wales.

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=191560>

[&ds=7/2010#3](#)

Legislative Programme 2010-11

The First Minister outlined the Assembly Government's legislative programme plans for the next Assembly term, which includes proposed Measures on:

- School transport safety
- Housing
- Education, including school governance
- Organ donation

Read the First Minister's statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=191560&ds=7/2010#7>

In-Year Spending

The Minister for Business and Budget made a statement on in-year spending, in which she clarified that the Welsh Assembly Government's share of the cuts being made by the UK government is £162 million, which equates to £113 million in revenue and £49 million in capital. Ms Hutt said that after careful consideration, the Assembly Government has decided not to defer the budget reductions.

The Minister confirmed that she would protect the capital budget this year by using end-year flexibility funding, so that education, health, housing and social care projects can continue. The Minister added that solid progress was being made in identifying opportunities for revenue

savings but that reductions will only be made that do not lead to “unacceptable consequences for front-line service delivery or for our economic recovery”.

Read the Minister’s statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=191560&ds=7/2010#8>

Proposed Mental Health (Wales) Measure

In a debate on the Proposed Mental Health (Wales) Measure, AMs voted to agree the general principles of the Measure. The Measure now moves on to Stage 2 of the scrutiny process, which will begin after the summer recess.

Read the debate in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=191560&ds=7/2010#10>

There is no Assembly Business to report for this week due to the summer recess. Bay Watch will return in September.

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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