

Audit Committee

Minutes AC(3) 02-09

Date: 4 February 2009

Time: 9:30 - 11:50am

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

David Melding (Chair), South Wales Central

Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth

Lesley Griffiths, Wrexham

Huw Lewis, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

Darren Millar, Clwyd West

Janet Ryder, North Wales

Committee Service

John Grimes, Clerk

Abigail Phillips, Deputy Clerk

Officials in Attendance

Jeremy Colman, Auditor General for Wales

Gillian Brody, Wales Audit Office

Matthew Mortlock, Wales Audit Office

Jason Blewitt, Wales Audit Office

Rob Powell, Wales Audit Office

Witnesses

Item 2:

Paul Williams, Head of the Department of Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government

Sheelagh Lloyd-Jones, Director of Human Resources, NHS Wales

Item 1: Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 Apologies were received from Chris Franks, Mike German, Janice Gregory, Irene James and Bethan Jenkins. Janet Ryder substituted for Chris Franks.

1.2 The Chair welcomed Janet Ryder to the Committee and thanked Chris Franks for his work.

Item 2: NHS Sickness Absence

Paper:

AC(3) 02-09 (p1) Wales Audit Office Report 'NHS Sickness Absence'

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Paul Williams and Sheelagh Lloyd-Jones on NHS sickness absence.

2.2 Paul Williams agreed to provide a note for the Committee indicating whether the 2007-08 target to reduce locum and agency staff expenditure to 2.0 per cent was met. A further note confirming whether the 2008-09 target of 0.8 per cent was met will be provided as soon as is practicable.

2.3 Paul Williams agreed to provide a note for the Committee on the reduction of back injury sickness rates in the NHS following the purchase and use of electronic power assisted beds.

2.4 Paul Williams agreed to provide a note for the Committee detailing the cost of the development and implementation of the NHS@Once e-learning system, its effectiveness and take up.

2.5 Paul Williams agreed to provide a note for the Committee on the cost of the development and implementation of the Electronic Staff Record in NHS Wales.

Item 3: Policy Statement on Inspection, Audit and Regulation

Paper:

AC(3) 02-09 (p2) Policy Statement on Inspection, Audit and Regulation

3.1 The Committee considered the policy statement on inspection, Audit and Regulation.

3.2 The Chair will write to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery conveying the Committee's views.

Under Standing Order 10.37 (vi) the Committee resolved to hold the remainder of the meeting in private session

Item 4: Evaluation of evidence session

4.1 The Committee discussed the evidence taken on NHS sickness absence

Item 5: Consideration of the draft Committee report 'Home Oxygen Therapy Services'

Paper:

AC(3) 02-09 (p3) Draft Report 'Home Oxygen Therapy Services'

5.1 The Committee agreed their draft report

Item 6: Consideration of the draft Committee report 'Operation of the Forestry Commission Wales'

Paper: AC(3) 02-09 (p4) Draft report 'Operation of the Forestry Commission Wales'

6.1 The Committee considered the draft report.

6.2 The Committee will consider amendments to the draft report at their next meeting.

Committee Service

February 2009