

Health & Social Services Committee

(HSS(2)-02-06)

Meeting date: Wednesday 1 February 2006

Meeting time: 9.30 am to 12. 50 pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3 & 4, National Assembly for Wales

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Chair)	Carmarthen East & Dinefwr
Brian Gibbons (Minister)	Aberavon
John Griffiths	Newport East
Helen Mary Jones	Mid & West Wales
Jonathan Morgan	South Wales Central
Jenny Randerson	Cardiff Central
Karen Sinclair	Clwyd South
Lynne Neagle	Torfaen

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Ann Lloyd	Head of Health and Social Care Department
Graham Williams	Chief Inspector Social Services Inspectorate Wales (SSIW)
Dr Mike Simmons	Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Richard Tebboth	SSIW
Jonathan Corbett	SSIW
Pat Vogt	SSIW

Richard Timothy	Welsh Language Unit
Hilary Hopkins	HR Adviser, NHSHR Division

In Attendance

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Jane Westlake	Committee Clerk
Julie Owen	Deputy Committee Clerk
Peter Jones	Counsel to the Committee

Item 1: Apologies and Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

1.1 No apologies were received.

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 A verbatim record of the meeting will be available.

Item 2: Report of the Chief Inspector of Social Services

Paper: HSS(2)-02-06(p.1);

2.1 Graham Williams, SSIW, introduced his report and gave an overview of the main points. Members questioned Mr Williams and his team on the contents of the report.

Action

- Richard Tebboth to provide information on young people with learning difficulties who have been given ASBOs.
- Jonathan Corbett to supply information on whether figures on the proportion of additions to the Child Protection Register who had been previously registered related to the previous year or a longer period.

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: HSS(2)-02-06(p.2);

3.1 The Minister responded to questions from Members on his report.

Action

- The Minister agreed to supply a paper on the actions and their timescale that resulted from the recent conference on GP Recruitment and Retention in Wales.

Item 4: The Provision of services in Welsh and other languages to meet the needs of other cultural needs.

Paper: HSS(2)-02-06(p.3);

4.1 The Deputy Minister introduced the paper and responded to questions from members on the implementation of its contents.

Action

- The Minister to supply information on the structure and work of the Welsh Language Unit within the Health Division
- The Deputy Minister to provide a paper on initiatives to assist Welsh speaking health professionals to work through the medium of Welsh including information on whether the Cardiff Medical School offered a course to enable Welsh speaking doctors to conduct their consultations in Welsh.

Item 5: Secondary Legislation

5.1 The draft legislation was scrutinised in accordance with the Committee's agreed protocol for scrutinising legislation, whereby members notify in advance any queries they have or amendments they wish to make.

i. Directions to Cardiff Local Health Board, Swansea Local Health Board and Monmouthshire Local Health Board (2006)

Papers: HSS(2)-02-06(p.4) & HSS(2)-02-06(p.4a);

5.2 Two points of clarification had been raised. No amendments had been proposed The Committee noted the Minister's response to the points of clarification and was content with the directions as drafted.

ii. The N HS (Performers Lists) (Wales) (Amendment) Wales Regulations 2006

Papers: HSS(2)-02-06(p.5) & HSS(2)-02-06(p.5a);

5.3 Two points of clarification had been raised. No amendments had been proposed. The Committee noted the Minister's response to the points of clarification and was content with the regulations as drafted.

iii. Amendment Directions to LHBs and and NHS Trusts in Wales to implement NICE technology appraisal guidance within three months of issue

Papers: HSS(2)-02-06(p.6) & HSS(2)-02-06(p.6a);

5.4 Three points of clarification had been raised. No amendments had been proposed. The Committee noted the Minister's response to the points of clarification and was content with the directions as drafted.

iv. Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations

Papers: HSS(2)-02-06(p.7) & HSS(2)-02-06(p.7a);

5.5 Five points of clarification had been raised. The Minister responded to four of these during the meeting. However Helen Mary Jones agreed to send her query to the Minister outside the meeting. No amendments had been proposed.

5.6 The Committee noted the Minister's response to the points of clarification and was content with the regulations as drafted.

Action

- A report on the Committee's conclusions would be laid before the Assembly.

Papers to Note

European Issues - Update

HSS(2)-02-06(p8)

Report on the Establishment of the Expert Group to advise on refining the Townsend Formula

HSS(2)-02-06(p9)

Action

- The Minister to provide a table detailing the breakdown of the allocation to each LHB rationale for it on a year-by-year basis with information on the rate of growth.
- Members asked that papers from the Expert group be placed on the internet.

Minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2006

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