

Health & Social Services Committee

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Date: Wednesday 5 October 2005

Venue: Committee Rooms 3&4, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Report of the Committee's Examination of Nursing Issues

Purpose

1. The Committee is invited to approve the draft report of its examination of nursing issues at the meeting on 22 June at Annex 1.

Committee Service

September 2005

Annex 1

Report by Health and Social Services Committee

Nursing Issues

At its meeting on 22 June, the Committee discussed issues relating to nursing and received evidence from the Royal College of Nursing and Royal College of Midwives. Unison had also been invited to give evidence, but due to a combination of reasons, were unable to do so.

The main issues raised were:

Recruitment and Retention

- The need for data on the reasons that a large number of nurses failed to register following completion of training.
- Concern that there might be a problem with a flattening of the career structure.
- The varying practices in use of agency nurses and the need to make the good practice that was evident in some areas in establishing nursing banks common practice throughout Wales.
- Concern about nurses taking on additional work to supplement their income and the possible implications on patient safety.
- The 2010 target for nurse recruitment should be revisited to ensure it is adequate in terms of the

current and projected needs of the service.

Professional Development

- The need to extend nurse and midwife prescribing.
- The need to proceed to full establishment of nurse and midwife consultants.
- A more strategic view needed to be taken to encourage greater use of nurse-led services.

Agenda for Change

- Concern that nurses working in the primary care sector and school nurses, who were not employed directly by the NHS, would not be eligible for the terms and conditions resulting from Agenda for Change.

Emergency Care

- Implementation of the guidance issued to Trusts on patient violence towards NHS staff should be reviewed in the light of the Wales Audit Office report, due to be published in two to three weeks.

Abolition of Health Professions Wales and Transfer of Functions to National Leadership Innovations Agency for Healthcare

- The need for robust structures to ensure the functions carried out by Health Professions Wales are safeguarded following transfer.

The Committee welcomed the suggestion of an annual report by the Chief Nursing Officer. A scoping paper would be prepared, suggesting possible areas to be included in the report.

The Minister's responses to these issues can be found in the verbatim transcript, which is attached.

Committee Service

June 2005