

Health & Social Services Committee

(HSS(2)-14-06) Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday 11 October 2006

Meeting time: 9.30 am to 12.35 pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 1, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Assembly Members in Attendance

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

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Ann Lloyd	Head, Department for Health and Social Services
Dr Tony Jewell	Chief Medical Officer
Phil Chick	Director of Mental Health
Claire Bond	Department for Health and Social Services
Irene Allen	Department for Health and Social Services

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
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Dr Andrew Fowell (Chair)	Chair of the Expert Reference Group advising the Committee on the Review of Cancer Services / Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Ysbyty Gwynedd
Dr Gwyn Thomas	Director, Informing Healthcare
Simon Dean	Chief Executive, Health Commission Wales
Jeff Stamatakis	Chair, CaNISC
Dr Jane Hanson	Director, Cancer Services Co-ordinating group
Will Bee	Director, Disability Rights Commission (DRC)
Laura Jerram	Practice Development Manager, DRC
David Groves	Health and Social Services Policy Officer, DRC

Assembly Parliamentary Service

Name	Job title
Jane Westlake	Committee Clerk
Sara Mansour	Deputy Committee Clerk
Kathryn Potter	Members Research Service
Peter Jones	Assembly Counsel

Item 1: Apologies and Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

1.1 Apologies were received from John Griffiths and Karen Sinclair. There were no substitutes.

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 A verbatim record of the meeting will be available.

Item 2: Review of Cancer Services – oral evidence

HSS(2)-14-06(p1a), HSS(2)-14-06(p1b), HSS(2)-14-06(p1c), HSS(2)-14-06(p1d) and HSS(2)-14-06 (p4)

2.1 The Committee took evidence for the witnesses about the application of information and communication technology and the commissioning of cancer services. They also discussed the Minister's paper on horizon scanning new drugs and treatment for cancer patients.

2.2 In discussing paper 4 Members also raised the announcement by the National Institute for Health

and Clinical Excellence that it was rejecting appeals from stakeholders on its draft guidance on the use of drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease.

Action

Committee to give further consideration in its deliberations to the issue of whether palliative care should be included in CaNISC.

The Minister agreed to provide an update in his report in December on guidance on treating people with Alzheimer's disease that NICE is due to publish in late November.

Item 3: Equal Treatment: Closing the Gap. Report of Disability Rights Commission (DRC) HSS(2)-14-06(p2)

3.1 The Committee discussed the report of the formal investigation into physical health inequalities experienced by people with learning difficulties and / or mental health problems. The representatives of the DRC responded to questions from Committee Members.

Action

The DRC will provide the information on research carried out on UK basis on services and health checks given to people entering and being discharged from prison.

Committee to receive a paper from the Minister outlining the Government's action plan in response to the recommendations made in the report and the Committee to discuss the issues again with the DRC in the spring of 2007.

Item 4: Secondary legislation: The Healthy Start Scheme (Description of Healthy Start Food) (Wales) Regulations 2006 HSS(2)-14-06(p3)

4.1 Members scrutinised the secondary legislation. Several points of clarification had been raised in advance to which the Minister responded at the meeting.

Action

Committee report to be tabled and the Chair to write to the Chair of the Business Committee

Papers to Note

Review of Cancer Services – availability of new drugs therapies and treatment
HSS(2)-14-06(p4)

Minutes of the meeting on 28 September 2006
HSS(2)-13-06-min

Committee Service
October 2006