

**Date:** Wednesday 28 February 2001

**Venue:** Committee Room 3, National Assembly for Wales

**Title:** Draft Forward Work Programme - September 2000 to December 2001

## **PART 1 - STRATEGIC PROGRAMME**

### **Duties of the Committee**

The Health and Social Services Committee is one of six subject committees. The responsibilities of the subject committees are set out in the National Assembly's Standing Orders :

"9.7. Each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Assembly Secretary is accountable to the Assembly;
- ii. keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- iii. keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

9.8 Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under SO22;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 19;
- iii. perform its functions under Standing Order 21(complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 20; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields."

Standing Order 9.9 requires the subject committee to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months.

For details of the Committee members click [here](#).

## **The Committee's Aims and Objectives**

The integration of health services and social care is the key objective in the committee's forward work programme. The programme addresses the major issues of tackling health inequalities and the determinants of ill health. The Committee will ensure that in reviewing and developing policy it will be making recommendations that will lead to high quality, value for money services. It will also want to be satisfied that services are properly regulated and inspected, especially those for vulnerable people.

This ethos conforms to the principles of "Better Wales, the National Assembly for Wales's strategic plan.

## **The Statutory Schemes**

The Committee will also take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with the local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the sustainable development scheme.

The Committee will consider a report of the Assembly Minister's meetings with the Voluntary Sector at least once year in accordance with section 3.7 of the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

## **The Committee's Priorities**

"Better Wales" states that the National Assembly will work to transform the performance and quality of health and care services in Wales and that it will increase the fairness, effectiveness, efficiency and financial management, particularly through better planning and collaboration in the commissioning and delivery of services. The Committee has already addressed several of the issues that were identified in "Better Wales" for early action by the Assembly. It will continue to progress the objectives of "Better Wales".

- **A children's commissioner for Wales.** The Committee will have the opportunity to comment on regulations and to monitor the progress of the commissioner's work
- **Health Improvement Programmes.** It will continue to monitor the development and implementation of these programmes as part of its work on scrutinising health authorities.
- **Hospital waiting times.** The Committee will continue to monitor performance on hospital waiting times and pressures on the NHS.
- **Fairer funding arrangements for the NHS.** The Committee has commissioned a review of the NHS resource allocation formula. The Committee will consider the report of the National Steering Group in the context of "Improving Health in Wales - A Plan for the NHS and its Partners"
- **Greater Protection for those receiving care.** The Committee will advise on the establishment of the Care Council for Wales to raise standards in the workforce, and also on the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales to improve the regulation of services. It will also advise on the

implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act.

- **A new approach to primary care.** It will continue to advise on the development of the primary care strategy.
- **A new community-led approach to health which tackles health inequalities.** The Committee will monitor the progress of Local Health Groups.
- **A Carer's Strategy for Wales.** It will continue to monitor and advise on the development of a Carers' Strategy.
- **A renewed capital programme.** The Committee wishes to be involved in early discussions on the capital programme.
- **Modernising Patient Advocacy and Support.** The Committee will review current arrangements for public liaison and patient advocacy

During its discussions on the budget priorities for 2001-2002 the Committee identified a number of priorities for the coming year and beyond, and will monitor progress of their achievement. These were set out as follows in the letter of 12 July 2000 from the Chair of the Committee to the Assembly Secretary:

### **"Improving health and tackling inequalities**

The problems of deprived communities, with an emphasis on those with the worst health, should be addressed, especially through the Communities First programme. The potential contribution of health / social care action zones should be considered in these areas.

### **Children's Services**

Establishing the post of the Children's Commissioner remains a high priority.

### **Services for the elderly**

Provision needs to be made to enable a positive response to the report of the Royal Commission on the Long Term Care of the Elderly. There would be a cost associated with better regulation and standards. This would have an effect on both local authorities and the voluntary sector. The Committee considers it important that funding for the voluntary sector is stabilised.

### **Clinical and service developments**

In view of the levels of cancer and coronary heart disease in Wales, health authorities must continue to have the resources required for improving services. Authorities must also have the resources to increase service capacity where there is a need. Their effectiveness should be monitored through their Health Improvement Plans.

## **Ambulance Service**

The committee was concerned that the Ambulance Service should have the resources to deliver the required standards of service.

## **Human Resources Strategy**

Adequate funding for the recruitment and development of staff and for underpinning the strategy is crucial to the achievement of other priorities.

## **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

The effective use of ICT and tele-medicine is also important for the efficiency of the modern health service.

## **Voluntary Sector**

The voluntary sector must have adequate and secure funding if it is to sustain and develop its contribution to health and social care."

# **HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**MAY TO JULY 2001**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Time (mins)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
-------------	--------------------	----------------

### **Wednesday 2 May**

Assembly Minister's Monthly Report	45	
Report of the NHS Resource Allocation National Steering Group	50	<i>Group's final report</i>
Modernising Patient Advocacy / Support and Public Liaison	75	<i>Postponed from 14 March</i>

**Wednesday 16 May**

Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust	90	<i>Follow-up to scrutiny</i>
Public Private Partnerships and the Private Finance Initiative in Wales	50	<i>Plenary Decision 5.12.00</i>

**Wednesday 6 June**

Assembly Minister's Monthly Report	45	
Modernising Patient Advocacy / Support and Public Liaison	125	<i>Evidence taking</i>

**Wednesday 20 June**

Modernising Patient Advocacy / Support and Public Liaison	125	<i>Evidence taking and discussion of evidence</i>
---	-----	---

**Wednesday 4 July**

Assembly Minister's Monthly Report	45	
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust	85	<i>Follow-up on Action Plan drawn up in response to CHI Report</i>
Report of Assembly Minister's Meeting with the Voluntary Sector	40	

**Wednesday 18 July**

Modernising Patient Advocacy / Support and Public Liaison	30	<i>Draft report</i>
Food Standards Agency Annual Report	45	

**Note:** Possible date for informal business or additional formal meeting on **Thursday** afternoon **14 June**. **This could be used for the presentation by the Advisers on the Race and Health Project**, which was to have been held this term

## **OTHER POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR SCHEDULING IN**

- Scrutiny of the Assembly Minister's performance as reported in the National Assembly's Annual Report
- Cardiac Risk in the Young .
- Committee Report under SO9.9.
- Fluoridation - how it might work in Wales
- Decontamination / Sterilisation audit (*paper to note*)
- Children's Commissioner – Draft Regulations (May – *Paper To Note*)
- Coronary Heart Disease - National Standards Framework (*paper to note*)
- Partnership Council Task and Finish Group on Health and Well Being (*paper to note*)

## **Items for September and Beyond**

CHI report on Cancer Services (September)

Health Improvement Programmes (paper to note) (September)

Strategy for Older People (February 2002)

Possible further consideration of BSE / vCJD