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Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Your ref:



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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6 July 2010

Dear Darren

**HEALTH, WELLBEING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE –
THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2010**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before the above Committee.

At the Committee, I agreed to provide further information on a number of areas within my remit. This information is provided below:

1. Preventative Healthcare in Schools

I agreed to provide a paper on the work that my Directorate is doing with the education service to provide preventative healthcare for young people.

There have been some significant improvements in child health and wellbeing. To further progress the health and wellbeing of children and young people, a wide range of activities is undertaken in the Health and Social Services portfolio, which often impacts on schools or uses schools as a setting for the work.

The paper attached at **Annex A** scopes the wide range of work on child health in schools and presents evidence on its effectiveness.

2a. Pharmacy Task and Finish Group

I agreed to provide Committee with a paper on the work undertaken by Chris Martin's task and finish group when completed. Although this work continues, I am able to provide Committee with an update as to its progress.

In July 2009, I established this Task and Finish Group under the chairmanship of Chris Martin to look at provision of pharmaceutical services in Wales, and how these could be improved in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and value for money.

The Group's "Emerging Themes" report was produced in September 2009 and focused on key areas for action, including:

- Reduction of Pharmaceutical Waste;
- Creation of Directed Enhanced Services;
- Increase Repeat Dispensing and 28-day prescribing;
- Development of Medicines Reconciliation services; and
- Standardisation of the claims system for enhanced services.

The Task and Finish Group was subsequently asked to ensure that these work streams were developed and delivered. The Group has therefore morphed into a Strategic Delivery Group, increasing its core membership and setting up a Scrutiny Committee to ensure that work is managed and delivered to agreed standards and timescales. The work of the Group is ongoing and, following a meeting with stakeholders in January, they have developed a strategy based around 6 key themes:

- Improving the identity of the pharmacy profession,
- Information Technology and Clinical Communications,
- Developing a single voice and leadership of Pharmacy,
- Developing a new Community Pharmacy Contract,
- Developing Pharmaceutical Care Plans and pathways, and
- Workforce Development and Planning.

This strategy is being taken forward by the LHB Pharmacy leads, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Welsh Board and the Medicines Management Programme Board (part of the 5-Year Service, Workforce and Financial Strategic Framework).

A paper on the work of this group will be prepared when this work is completed.

2b. Pharmaceutical Groups in Wales

The Committee asked for details of the current role and responsibilities of the various groups established to consider drugs and medicines in Wales. These are:

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) was established to provide independent guidance on the clinical and cost effectiveness of new licensed drugs for use within the NHS. Local Health Boards (LHBs) in Wales and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England are under a statutory duty to fund drugs that have been recommended for use by NICE in its technology appraisal guidance.

All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)

AWMSG provides advice to me on strategic issues relating to medicines management, including the approval of new medicines and the cost implications of making these medicines available in Wales.

To avoid duplication of effort, AWMSG would not normally consider undertaking an appraisal if NICE intend to publish final advice of the same product within 12 months of the projected submission date.

Recommendations of AWMSG are interim and are superseded by guidance from NICE when published on the same topic. Through this, in Wales early guidance has been provided to the service prior to NICE appraisal which has allowed patients in Wales more rapid access to appropriate medicines.

New medicines, or existing medicines with a new licensed indication, will not be endorsed for use in Wales until appraised by the AWMSG or NICE. In the absence of AWMSG or NICE guidance individual prescribers should exercise their clinical judgement unless there is evidence not to do so in the light of particular circumstances of an individual patient.

In 2010/11, AWMSG will be broadening its remit and increasing the level of appraisals to deliver up to 70 additional appraisals of new medicines each year, excluding those on the NICE work programme.

Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee

This is the statutory committee for providing professional advice to the Assembly Government on pharmacy matters. Specifically, the role includes:

- advising the First Minister and the Minister for Health and Social Services on pharmaceutical issues in Wales;

- implementing an annual work programme agreed between the Director of the Health and Social Services Department, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser, Chairman and Vice-Chair on behalf of the Committee;
- commenting and advising upon any documents or issues referred to it by the Assembly;
- bringing to the attention of the First Minister and the Minister for Health and Social Services, through the Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser, issues concerning the maintenance and development of health services and health issues in Wales generally.

The committee is to be reconstituted to reflect the new organisational structure in Wales.

Welsh Committee for the Professional Development of Pharmacy (WCPDP)

This is an Assembly Government Sponsored Body that has cross sector representation to review and commission the programme of post graduate education for pharmacy in Wales. This commission directs the expenditure of the contractual commitment to the education provider for Pharmacy in Wales hosted by Cardiff University.

Attached at **Annex B** is an organogram of current inter-relationships of pharmaceutical accountability.

3. Chronic Conditions Management

I agreed to provide Committee with a report on the outcome of work undertaken on Chronic Conditions Management (CCM). A sound basis for consistent and continued improvements in CCM has been put in place. The next twelve months should see further improvements in services and related outcomes. Attached at **Annex C** is a full update on this programme.

4. Sunbed Legislation

I agreed to share with Committee information on proposed sunbed legislation when available. The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010, which received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010, will come into force on 8 April 2011. It will prevent persons aged under 18 from using sunbeds by making it an offence for businesses which offer sunbeds on their premises to allow such persons to use or have access to those sunbeds.

The Act provides:

- that businesses which offer sunbeds for use on their premises will be banned from allowing persons aged under 18 to use or have access to their sunbeds, and from offering their sunbeds for use by persons aged under 18, and the Act defines a restricted zone around sunbeds for this purpose, establishing an offence for non-compliance, and exempting sunbed use for medical treatment; and
- regulation-making powers for the Welsh Ministers to further regulate sunbed use in Wales, for example by:
 - requiring supervision of the use of sunbeds;
 - restricting sale or hire of sunbeds to persons under 18;
 - prescribing information to be made available to those adults aged 18 and over who choose to use sunbeds;
 - prohibiting a business from providing or displaying material that contains statements relating to the health effects of sunbed use, other than information prescribed; and
 - requiring the provision and wearing of protective eyewear for adult users.

The Act will come into force on 8 April 2011, but Welsh Ministers can consult formally with stakeholders on proposed draft regulations prior to this date. The intention is that this process will be fully completed before April 2011 to enable the Welsh Ministers to exercise their regulation making powers as soon as possible after the Act has come into force.

Senior Officials, my Deputy Chief Environmental Health Adviser and the Health Legal Adviser from the Assembly Government have held initial discussions to commence work on drafting the necessary Regulations for Wales. This small working group is in the process of scoping the detail of information that needs to be included in the regulations. The assistance of my Consultant Optometric Adviser is being sought in relation to requirements for protective eyewear. In addition, the working group will seek local authority and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health advice on the development of the Regulations. We feel that this would be valuable given that local authorities will be responsible for enforcement under the Act and the proposed Regulations.

To help inform the drafting of the regulations, Officials are also arranging to liaise with colleagues in Scotland to learn from their observations following the introduction of their sunbed legislation at the end of 2009.

Work has commenced on preparing the draft Regulations and the consultation document for a 12-week consultation exercise to be conducted.

5. One Wales Commitments

The recently updated version of the "One Wales" Delivery Plan is scheduled for consideration by the Budget and Performance Cabinet Committee on 7 July and publication thereafter on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

A link to the website is provided:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgovernment/strategy/publications/1walesdeliveryplan/;jsessionid=1pn5MshFlyWv2wXqkFTWWzhvtlkxp5dkMhcbNxJp1fr7m215CFbq!-591460465?lang=en>

I trust you will find this information of assistance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'L. J. ...', located below the text 'I trust you will find this information of assistance.'