

National Assembly for Wales
Health, Wellbeing and Local
Government Committee

Legacy report

March 2011



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Committee Membership

<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Constituency or Region</i>
Jonathan Morgan (Chair)	Welsh Conservative Party	Cardiff North
Lorraine Barrett	Labour	Cardiff South and Penarth
Veronica German	Welsh Liberal Democrats	South Wales East
Irene James	Labour	Islwyn
Ann Jones	Labour	Vale of Clwyd
Helen Mary Jones	Plaid Cymru	Llanelli
Dai Lloyd	Plaid Cymru	South Wales West
Val Lloyd	Labour	Swansea East
Nick Ramsay	Welsh Conservative Party	Monmouth

Previous Members of the Committee

<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Constituency or Region</i>
Peter Black	Welsh Liberal Democrats	South Wales West
Alun Cairns	Welsh Conservative Party	South Wales West
Andrew R.T. Davies	Welsh Conservative Party	South Wales Central
Darren Millar	Welsh Conservative Party	Clwyd West
Jenny Randerson	Welsh Liberal Democrats	Cardiff Central

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1. Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a useful starting point for the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's successor – to show what we have done during the third Assembly, how we have done it and the lessons we have learned.

Remit and Responsibilities of the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

2. The Health and Social Services Committee is one of the Assembly's four scrutiny committees established under Standing Order No. 12. Its remit covers the areas of health and social services, local government and public service delivery.

Work and Achievements

3. The Committee's aim over the four years of the third Assembly has been to scrutinise the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and to monitor their implementation to ensure that the people of Wales have access to health and social care where it is needed and to monitor and scrutinise the work of local government.

4. The Committee met 89 times during the third Assembly. It undertook 16 inquiries, 14 of which culminated in published Committee reports.

5. Work undertaken by the HWLG Committee in the third Assembly can be divided into three main categories:

- budget scrutiny
- general scrutiny of Ministers
- committee inquiries

6. As set out in Standing Order No. 12, one of the main functions of scrutiny committees is to examine, within their remit, the expenditure of the Welsh Government. Therefore, each year, the Committee has scrutinised the draft budget for the following year, by inviting the Ministers with responsibilities for the areas of health, social services and local government to give evidence on the allocations to their main expenditure groups and how they will deliver on their commitments with the funding allocated. The Committee has submitted its findings

from these sessions to the Finance Committee, for inclusion in its final report to the Minister with responsibility for the Welsh Assembly Government budget.

7. The Committee has also held once-termly general scrutiny sessions with the Ministers with responsibility for health and local government matters. Briefings and lines of questioning were not generally commissioned for these sessions.

2. Committee Inquiries in the Third Assembly

Introduction

8. As described in Chapter 1, the Committee undertook 16 inquiries during the third Assembly. This chapter gives an overview of those inquiries and, where appropriate, includes information on follow-up work undertaken by the Committee at the end of the third Assembly.

Workforce Planning for the Health Service and Social Care in Wales

9. In March 2008, the Committee published its [Report on Workforce Planning for the Health Service and Social Care in Wales](#). The inquiry looked at recruitment and retention difficulties for social care staff and the impact of Government policies in those areas. The report made 28 recommendations on areas such as involving Allied Health Professionals and the voluntary sector in the workforce planning system; regional and strategic goals being taken into consideration in workforce planning; and improving the collection of workforce data.

Follow-up March 2011

10. The Committee undertook follow-up work on this inquiry in March 2011, and took oral evidence from the British Medical Association, the British Dental Association, the College of Occupational Therapists, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the Royal College of Nursing, and the Minister for Health and Social Services. In their evidence to the Committee, the British Medical Association, the College of Occupational Therapists and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy told the Committee that there was limited engagement by LHB managers in the professional fora that were established as a result of the restructuring of the NHS in Wales and that their engagement is vital, as professional fora can provide valuable advice at the planning stage on the capacity for delivering services within their professions.

11. The British Medical Association and the British Dental Association expressed strong concern about the collection of workforce data, including through the electronic staff record, which could categorise non-medical staff in an inaccurate way, leading to anomalies in the data collected.

12. The BDA expressed concern about the lack of dental nurse training courses, particularly in rural areas, and the fact that, although the 22 LHBs have now merged to form seven, each of the former LHBs still seem to have a dental lead, meaning that the BDA has to deal with, effectively, 22 different organisations. The Committee's report had suggested that financial incentives could be used to encourage students from Wales to train in Wales and to encourage newly qualified doctors to work in areas of shortage in Wales. The BMA reported to Committee that little progress has made in this area and that it would like to see more commitment on the future of the NHS Wales bursary and a scheme to widen access to medical schools. The BMA also suggested that the provision of financial incentives is not the only way to achieve this, but that Wales needs to sell its excellent training courses to prospective students outside Wales.

Recommendation

We recommend that a successor committee monitors the issue of workforce planning for the health service and social care.

Assembly Government's Consultation Proposals on the Structure of the National Health Service

13. In June 2008, the Committee published its [Report on the Assembly Government's Consultation Proposals on the Structure of the National Health Service](#). Although the Committee did not feel it appropriate to make recommendations on the merits or otherwise of specific proposals, it outlined a range of issues that it felt the Minister should consider when deciding on her final proposals.

Presumed Consent for Organ Donation

14. In July 2008, the Committee published its [Report on Presumed Consent for Organ Donation](#), looking at whether presumed consent for organ donation should be introduced in Wales and covering issues such as the possible legal framework for a system of presumed consent, the views of the public and interested parties, and how any system in Wales would work in conjunction with the rest of the UK. The report made recommendations on the implementation in Wales of the UK Organ Donation Task Force recommendations, capacity issues, operational issues, and public awareness raising.

Local Service Boards

15. In December 2008, the Committee published its [Report on Local Service Boards](#). This inquiry looked at the progress of the six Local Service Board (LSB) pilots that were running in Wales at the time and how LSBs might develop in the future. The report made 12 recommendations, including recommendations relating to clarifying the role of LSBs; ensuring continuity; seniority of personnel on LSBs; and the scrutiny role of LSBs.

Local Government Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements

16. In March 2008, the Committee published its [Report on Local Government Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements](#). In 2004, the HWLG Committee's predecessor, the Local Government and Public Services Committee (LGPS) Committee, produced a report on the Operation of the New Political Management Structures in Local Government, which contained recommendations for the Assembly Government and Local Government on strengthening the scrutiny role of non-executive councillors. In this inquiry, the HWLG Committee reviewed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2004 report and assessed what further developments were necessary to improve the quality of scrutiny and overview in local government. The report made recommendations relating to increasing support and powers for scrutiny Committees; collaboration and joint working; the funding of the scrutiny and overview function; the Scrutiny Development Fund; training for members of local government scrutiny committees; the career path of council officers; whipping in scrutiny committees; and the party Balance of Scrutiny Committee Chairs.

Follow-up February 2011

17. The Committee undertook follow-up work on this inquiry on 3 February 2011. In that meeting, it was noted that the scrutiny performance of local authorities was still 'extremely patchy'. The Minister stated that he hoped to introduce a minimum standard of scrutiny through the implementation of the Local Government Measure.

18. The lack of transparency with regard to the outcome of local government scrutiny work was also noted in that meeting, in that there is no statutory requirement on the executive of a local government to respond to the reports of scrutiny committees.

19. It was also noted that there was a lack of evidence of work being undertaken to develop the concept of a 'School for Scrutiny', including investigating how the use of academically accredited courses might play a part in developing scrutiny skills. The Minister committed to look again to see whether there was an opportunity to strengthen the accreditation process. Subsequent to the meeting, the Minister made the Committee aware that the WGLA has approached the University of Glamorgan with a view to the university providing a course for councillors from January 2013.

Recommendation

We recommend that a future committee monitors developments in local government overview and scrutiny arrangements.

Equal Pay Arrangements in Local Government

20. In January 2009, the Committee wrote to the former Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Brian Gibbons, with the findings and recommendations of its [Inquiry into Equal Pay Arrangements in Local Government](#). The Committee made four recommendations relating to establishing the amount of money each authority had spent on implementing equal pay systems; setting a date beyond which Assembly Government funding would no longer be available to local authorities that had not concluded equal pay agreements; that authorities that identify themselves as having no liability for back pay and no need to change pay systems should no longer receive additional funding from the Assembly Government; and that an urgent meeting be convened of all parties involved in the aim of refocusing attention on equal pay arrangements in local government in Wales.

Follow-up February-March 2011

21. The Committee undertook some follow-up work on this inquiry in February and March 2011, taking oral evidence from Unison, the Welsh Local Government Association and the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.

22. The Committee heard that over half of Wales' local authorities have not yet completed the implementation of single status arrangements, and that this could take several more years. The Committee also heard that the fact that these arrangements are not yet in place in many local authorities could cause serious problems for

the Government's proposals to look at shared services throughout Wales' local authorities in the future.

Recommendation

We recommend that a future committee monitors the implementation of single status arrangements.

Community Mental Health Services

23. In September 2009, the Committee published its [Report on Community Mental Health Services](#). This inquiry looked at the provision of community-based mental health services in Wales for people aged 16-60 years, with a specific focus on the capacity and geographical availability of services; the provision of services for young people over 16 years in transition from children's to adult services; the impact of the effectiveness of community-based services on hospital admissions and delayed transfers of care; the effective co-ordination of health and social care elements of community mental health services; equality issues relating to community mental health services, including those for BME groups. The report made recommendations on establishing a mental health service specifically for young people aged 17-25 that would facilitate transition to adult services at a time that is appropriate for each young person; addressing the weaknesses and variability in community mental health services; improving levels of mental health knowledge and skills amongst staff working in primary care; and increasing the number of mental health nurses and clarifying the role and expectations of mental health services in primary care; ensuring that the rural health plan addresses access to community mental health services by people living in rural areas of Wales.

CAFCASS Cymru

24. Also in September 2009, the Committee published its [Report on CAFCASS Cymru](#), which examined the work of CAFCASS Cymru and reviewed the arrangements for the delivery of CAFCASS services for children and young people in Wales since it was devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2005. The report made recommendations on advocacy services for children; CAFCASS ensuring a consistent and appropriate approach when making contact with children, family members and other agencies; ensuring a child-centred service; ensuring that CAFCASS Cymru is represented on all

local safeguarding children's boards; and funding for child contact centres.

Follow-up March 2011

25. The Committee undertook some follow-up work on this inquiry in March 2011, taking oral evidence from CAFCASS, the NSPCC and the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

26. CAFCASS told the Committee that work on the following recommendations is still at an early stage, nearly two years on:

We recommend that CAFCASS offers Child Contact Centres in Wales that they already fund, immediate three year funding arrangements at the level of their current funding.

[Recommendation 15]

We recommend that CAFCASS and the Welsh Ministers draw up a funding strategy for all Child Contact Centres in Wales, including those not currently funded, based on the principles outlined in this report. [Recommendation 16]

The Committee was told that CAFCASS were looking at a six to nine month window for completing this work. The Committee's successor may therefore wish to monitor progress on the implementation of these recommendations.

Recommendation

A future committee may wish to monitor progress on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Report on CAFCASS Cymru and keep the situation under review.

Use and Regulation of Sunbeds in Wales

27. In November 2009, the Committee published its [Report on the Use and Regulation of Sunbeds in Wales](#), following issues having been raised about the potential health risks associated with the use of sunbeds and especially the use of unsupervised tanning salons by children. The report made recommendations on setting the minimum age for use of a sunbed at 18 and ensuring full-time supervision of sunbed premises by trained staff.

Stroke Services in Wales

28. In April 2010, the Committee published its [Report on Stroke Services in Wales](#). This inquiry was undertaken as a result of criticism of stroke services in Wales, in particular in the National Sentinel Stroke Audit series of reports published by the Royal College of Physicians, which raised serious concerns about the quality of services. The report made recommendations on increasing the number of specialist stroke units; establishing a national stroke register; and establishing an all-Wales stroke strategy.

Wheelchair Services in Wales

29. In May 2010, the Committee published its [Report on Wheelchair Services in Wales](#). This inquiry was undertaken as a result of criticism of the effectiveness of these services to meet service users' needs. Waiting times for assessment and provision had been of particular concern. The report made recommendations on the structure, strategic direction and operation of the service provided by the NHS; joint working, for example with the voluntary sector and charities; and meeting the wider needs of wheelchair services users.

Neonatal Care in Wales

30. In July 2010, the Committee published its [Report on Neonatal Care in Wales](#). This inquiry looked at the progress in delivering the All-Wales Neonatal Standards and the implementation of the recommendations of the expert group on Neonatal Services. The report made recommendations on funding of neonatal care, staffing in neonatal care units and occupancy levels; neonatal transport services, and the implementation of the All-Wales Neonatal Standards of the expert group established by the Minister.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales

31. In November 2010, the Committee published its [Report on Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales](#). This inquiry examined whether LSCBs were performing effectively and consistently across Wales in strengthening arrangements for protecting and promoting the welfare of children. The report made recommendations on addressing the over-reliance on Social Services Departments; awareness-raising of the role of LSCBs amongst frontline staff; and consulting on a national funding formula for LSCBs.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment for Services Veterans

32. In February 2011, the Committee published its [Report on Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment for Services Veterans](#). This inquiry considered the adequacy and suitability of services in Wales, including, among other things, arrangements for raising awareness of PTSD and for signposting treatment and support services; the identification of veterans suffering from PTSD and the collection of data on the prevalence of the condition; the adequacy and suitability of treatment and support services including alcohol and drug misuse treatment services. The report made recommendations on improving data collection on the incidence of PTSD; raising awareness of PTSD among veterans and their families; and improving access to substance misuse services for veterans with PTSD; and the he transfer of medical history from the armed services to GP practices.

Orthodontic Services in Wales

33. Also in February 2011, the Committee published its [Report on Orthodontic Services in Wales](#). Among other things, this inquiry looked at the impact of the new dental contract on the provision of orthodontic care; the effectiveness of orthodontic treatment across the various providers; and arrangements for monitoring standards of delivery and outcomes of care within the NHS and the independent sector. The report made recommendations on introducing a standardised UOA rate; the funding of a waiting list initiative to clear the backlog of patients waiting for orthodontic treatment; and addressing the issue of inappropriate referrals.

NHS Reviews

34. The Committee also undertook an [inquiry into the way in which NHS reviews are undertaken and Government guidance on engagement and consultation on changes to health services](#). The Committee wrote to the Minister for Health and Social Services outlining issues that it felt Local Health Boards should take into consideration when undertaking reviews, consultation and engagement in March 2011.

Additional Work: E.coli Outbreak and the Pennington Recommendations

35. The Committee also undertook [work to look at the Government's implementation of the recommendations of the Pennington Report on the E.coli Outbreak in Wales in 2005](#). The Committee invited the First

Minister to give evidence on this subject on 8 July 2010. The First Minister issued a statement on 19 October 2010 outlining progress made. He reported that Professor Pennington had expressed his belief that good progress was being made and the local authorities that had been criticised in his report had “turned themselves around”. In his statement, the First Minister also reported that the FSA’s Food Hygiene Delivery Programme was consulting on guidance principles for food businesses handling raw and ready-to-eat foods; that the FSA’s Social Science Research Unit had commissioned a review of evidence to investigate the culture and behaviours in businesses and enforcement bodies to understand “what works” in securing regulatory compliance, particularly in relation to food safety; and that he had commissioned the FSA to examine the means by which food safety is managed in Wales and make an assessment on the appropriate skills and resources required to do so effectively.

36. The Committee expressed concern at the difference between the figure of £200,000 earmarked by the Government to implement the Pennington recommendations and the figure of £2.75 million suggested by Professor Pennington. The successor committee may wish to consider the amount of funding allocated to implement these recommendations.

Recommendation

A successor committee may wish to monitor the FSA’s work in this area as well as the Welsh Government’s progress in implementing the recommendations addresses directly at them.

3. Future Work

37. The committee(s) of the fourth Assembly may wish to monitor progress on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee in its inquiries throughout the third Assembly.

38. As described in Chapter 2, the Committee has identified a number of areas that a successor committee may wish to consider. These include workforce planning in the health service and in social care; local government overview and scrutiny arrangements; equal pay arrangements in local government; CAFCASS Cymru; and the Food Standards Agency's work on food safety.

39. A number of Assembly Measures in the fields of health, wellbeing and local government have been agreed by the National Assembly during the course of the third Assembly, including the NHS Redress Measure, and the committee(s) may wish to monitor the impact and effectiveness of legislation in the areas of health, wellbeing and local government.

40. We feel that the successor committee(s) should consider implementing a system of ongoing engagement with the public, including a standing invitation to the public to suggest subjects for committee inquiries. In addition, we feel the committee's forward work programme should be published, to allow stakeholders to feed into it.

Suggestions from Stakeholders and the Public

In February 2011, the Committee wrote to stakeholders asking which areas they would like to see the Committee's successor address in the fourth Assembly. A call for suggestions was also published on the Committee's website. A list of responses is attached at Annex A.

Annex A - Consultation Responses

The following people and organisations responded to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's call for areas for the Committee's successor to consider in the fourth Assembly. All consultation responses can be viewed in full at:

http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-scrutiny-committees/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/hwlg-legacy_page.htm

Name	Reference
Abergavenny and Crickhowell Friends of the Earth	HWLG(3)-LEGACY001
Age Cymru	HWLG(3)-LEGACY002
Antur Ystradgynlais	HWLG(3)-LEGACY003
Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital	HWLG(3)-LEGACY004
BASW – The College of Social Work	HWLG(3)-LEGACY005
British Diabetic Association	HWLG(3)-LEGACY006
British Lung Foundation Wales	HWLG(3)-LEGACY007
Care Council for Wales	HWLG(3)-LEGACY008
Children's Commissioner for Wales	HWLG(3)-LEGACY009
College of Occupational Therapists	HWLG(3)-LEGACY010
Flintshire Community Learning Disabilities Team	HWLG(3)-LEGACY011
Gofal	HWLG(3)-LEGACY012
Andrew Johnson	HWLG(3)-LEGACY013
MacMillan Cancer Support	HWLG(3)-LEGACY014
Neil McKenzie	HWLG(3)-LEGACY015
National Energy Action Cymru	HWLG(3)-LEGACY016
Pathways	HWLG(3)-LEGACY017
Platform 51	HWLG(3)-LEGACY018
Play Wales	HWLG(3)-LEGACY019
Police Authorities of Wales	HWLG(3)-LEGACY020
Susan Riggs	HWLG(3)-LEGACY021
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	HWLG(3)-LEGACY022

Seren	HWLG(3)-LEGACY023
Stonewall Cymru	HWLG(3)-LEGACY024
Jayne Sullivan	HWLG(3)-LEGACY025
Rhiannon Walding	HWLG(3)-LEGACY026
Wales Cancer Alliance	HWLG(3)-LEGACY027
Weight Watchers	HWLG(3)-LEGACY028
Welsh Senate of Older People	HWLG(3)-LEGACY029
Vivienne Williams	HWLG(3)-LEGACY030
Ynys Môn Council	HWLG(3)-LEGACY031