

Nid yw ar gael trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

**Date:** Wednesday 11 June 2003  
**Venue:** Committee Room 3, National Assembly for Wales  
**Title:** Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Bill

### Purpose

1. The Committee is invited to consider the impact of the Bill on Wales and to suggest amendments.

### Background

2. A copy of the Bill and the Explanatory Notes is available at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills.htm>. The Bill had its first reading in the House of Commons on 12 March and is now at the committee stage.

3. The bill is in six parts:

**Part 1** establishes NHS foundation trusts – this part does not apply to Wales.

**Part 2** deals with matters relating to the quality of standards. In particular, the Bill sets up the new health care inspectorate and the new social care inspectorate for England as announced in *Delivering the NHS Plan* and the proposed role and functions of which were set out in *The Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection and the Commission for Social Care Inspection - a statement of purpose*. Both inspectorates will be established as executive non-departmental public bodies.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (the "CSCI") will be an England only body. The Bill confers social care functions, similar to those of the CSCI, on the National Assembly for Wales ('the Assembly').

Whilst the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection (the "CHAI") will be an England and Wales body, the reviews and investigations of health care provided by NHS bodies in Wales will be the responsibility of the Assembly.

This part of the Bill also deals with the handling of complaints made about NHS bodies and local authorities about the provision of health care and social services respectively.

**Part 3** deals with the recovery of NHS charges. This part of the Bill provides for the NHS to recover hospital treatment and/or ambulance costs where people receive compensation for injuries. This is an expansion of the current scheme for traffic accident cases as set out in the Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Act 1999. The costs would be recovered from the compensator and not the patient receiving the NHS treatment. This part has not been devolved in respect of Wales (see paragraph 26 below).

**Part 4** makes various changes relating to NHS dentistry. It applies to Wales and amends the contractual arrangements between Local Health Boards and dentists in Wales. The Bill makes changes to the way patient charges are calculated. The Bill abolishes the Dental Practice Board ('DPB').

**Part 5** provides for the replacement of the Welfare Food Scheme, a scheme originally set up to provide milk and vitamins to mothers and children during a time of food rationing. This Part also makes a number of small amendments to other legislation.

**Part 6** contains a number of final provisions.

## **Action**

4. The Chair of the Committee will write formally to the Minister requesting that she considers amendments recommended by the Committee and passes them to Secretary of State.

Committee Secretariat  
June 2003