

Health & Social Services Committee

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Date: Wednesday 5 October 2005

Venue: Committee Rooms 3&4, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Report of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee Meeting on 16 June 2005

Purpose

- 1. The Committee is invited to approve the draft report at Annex 1.**

Committee Service

September 2005

Annex 1

Health and Social Services Committee Scrutiny Sub- Committee

Report to the Health and Social Services Committee on the First Meeting

The topics for the first meeting, selected by the sub-committee members, on which the Minister was scrutinised were:

- The National Health Service Capital Investment Programme;
- The Ambulance Service in Wales;
- Services for Children who are looked-after by the local authority during their transition to adulthood.

The main issues raised in questioning were:

Capital Investment Programme

- Concern that the bureaucratic nature of preparing business cases slowed down the process and that LHBs were required to sign up to the revenue consequences of any investment.
- Assembly Government constraints on the ways external funds could be utilised, particularly the European Investment Fund.
- The timing of public consultation on any reconfiguration of services and the weight that would be

placed on public opinion.

- The involvement of trusts in the reconfiguration process.
- The impact of capital investment on staffing and the need for extended training and reconfiguration of people's skills.
- The need to ring-fence money in advance for specific projects.
- The adequacy of funding allocated for diagnostics.
- The need to develop local capacity.
- The apparent disparity in mental health funding between North and South Wales.

Ambulance Service

- The impact that out of hours provision had on the demand for ambulance services.
- The need to look at different ways of working, such as ambulance crews carrying out triage, and reducing delays in handover times at A&E departments.
- Whether a lack of A&E consultants was contributing to delays in turnaround time.
- Funding for the air ambulance service.

Looked After Children

- Disappointment that the educational attainment level for looked after children was so much lower than the rest of the population.
- The role of independent reviewing officers and their power to refer cases to CAFCASS.
- The inappropriate use of bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Provision of mental health services for looked after children during the transition to adulthood.
- Services for disabled young people.
- The need for stability of placements.
- The need for local authorities to have a transitional plan for each looked after child based on their individual needs and with its own funding source.
- The duty on local authority members to be corporate parents.
- The need for the Welsh Assembly Government to monitor expenditure on Children's First initiatives once it is absorbed into the revenue support grant.

The Minister's responses to these questions can be found in the verbatim transcript, which is [attached](#).

Committee Service

June 2005