

# Health & Social Services Committee

**HSS(2)-01-06(p.6)**

**Date: Thursday 19 January 2006**

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

**Title: Health and Social Services Committee Scrutiny Sub-Committee -  
Report to the Health and Social Services Committee on the meeting held on  
17 November 2005**

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

Palliative Care;

Direct Payments.

**The main issues raised in questioning were:**

## **Palliative Care**

The lack of palliative care support for non-cancer illnesses.

The lack of involvement of therapy services in the commissioning process.

Weaknesses in the links between the NHS and the hospice movement.

The commissioning of complementary therapies as part of the primary care service.

The need to simplify the commissioning process.

Inequity in the availability of hospice services.

Concern at the poor provision of lymphoedema services and treatment of non-cancer lymphoedema.

Timely provision of equipment and adaptations to assist patients and carers at home.

## **Direct Payments**

The employment rights of anyone providing services to someone in receipt of Direct Payments.

The low level of take up level in Wales and the variation between areas.

The need to encourage take up and spread best practice.

Training for new social workers to enable them to promote Direct Payments.

The need for support services to encourage more people to take up Direct Payments, particularly those with mental health conditions.

The need to monitor take up and the availability and suitability of supporting guidance and literature.

**The Minister's responses to these issues can be found in the verbatim transcript.**

Committee Service

November 2005