

Health and Social Services Committee

HSS(2)- 08-06(p12)

Meeting date: Thursday 11 May 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Final Report from Health Professions Wales

Purpose

This paper provides members with the update position following the closure of Health Professions Wales.

Members are asked to note the content of this paper.

Background

Following the First Minister's announcement November 2004, Health Professions Wales was wound up at 31st March 2006 and their functions transferred to alternative health organisations.

The functions of the Local Supervising Authority and Quality assurance monitoring were transferred to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

All remaining functions from HPW were brought together with some of the functions from the Human Resources Division, Welsh Assembly Government, and were transferred to a new Workforce Development, Education and Contracting Unit as part of the National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare. The Welsh Assembly Government retained the responsibility for policy development and the decision making process around education and training commissioning numbers. The relationship with the Deanery also remained unchanged.

Present position

The Health Professions Wales Abolition Order 2006 came into force at 31 March 2006.

Staff from HPW transferred either to the employment of the National Assembly for Wales or Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust.

Staff from the Human Resources Division were transferred to the employment of Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust. All staff employed by Bro Morgannwg Trust were offered access to the NHS Pension Scheme

ensuring that staff were not disadvantaged by the transfer.

Staff from HRD re-located to Llanharan (base for NLIAH) at 3 April 2006. Former HPW staff have remained temporarily in Golate House, Cardiff until extended accommodation has been completed at NLIAH.

Accommodation has been secured for the Student Awards Unit Staff within Brunel House, Cardiff. Former HPW staff who transferred to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales are working jointly between Golate House and HIW Caerphilly base. Co-location of all staff is planned in the next few weeks.

There is an Implementation Board and two implementation teams overseeing the transitional arrangements of the WDECU. A Stakeholder Board with an externally appointed chair will be established in the next few months. All key stakeholders are engaged with the new arrangements and are working in partnership to deliver the vision for the WDECU and the strengthening of functions transferred to HIW.

Conclusion

The closure of HPW has enabled functions to be developed and strengthened to meet the agenda described in *Deigned for Life* (2005). A benefit realisation plan will be developed to continue to oversee the achievements brought about by these changes.

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Minister for Health and Social Services

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