

Health and Social Services Committee

HSS(2)-11-06(p3)

Meeting date: Wednesday 28th June 2006

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

Title: Directions to trusts and Powys Local Health Board

Purpose

1. The Committee has identified the Standing Order 29 draft Directions regarding the appointment of Non Executive Directors of NHS Trusts and an Associate Non Officer Member of Powys LHB to act as a 'patients champion' on issues relating to cleaning, hygiene and infection management for scrutiny.

Summary

2. The objective is to ensure that the public point of view is represented by a patient's champion on cleaning, hygiene and control and prevention of infection issues, at the highest possible level in each Trust and Powys Local Health Board (LHB). Each Trust will nominate an existing Non-Executive Director (NED) and Powys LHB an Associate Non Officer Member to fulfil this function. They will be required to act as an advocate to ensure that CHCs and patients obtain information on issues relating to cleaning, hygiene and infection management.

3. Chief Executive's existing responsibility and accountability will not change as a result of this proposal.

Background

4. Val Lloyd AM won the subordinate legislation ballot under Standing Order 31 which was held on 7th June 2005. Ms Lloyd subsequently tabled the motion proposing these appointments shown which was discussed and voted on at Plenary on 27th September 2005.

5. A second revised motion recommending that the Assembly should proceed with this proposal was debated, voted on and passed at Plenary on 11th January 2006. The Health and Social Services Minister is now proposing to bring forward legislation to give effect to this proposal under Standing Order 29.

Legislation

6. The Assembly has power to issue directions to NHS Trusts about their exercise of any functions,

under section 17 of the National Health Service Act 1977 ("1977 Act"). This power was transferred to the Assembly by virtue of Article 2(a) of and Schedule 1 to the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999. In the case of Powys LHB, the Assembly may issue directions to it by virtue of section 16BB of the 1977 Act

7. NHS Trusts are established under section 5 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 to provide goods and service for the purpose of the health service.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications.

Action for Subject Committee

9. The Committee is invited to consider and comment upon these draft Directions.

Dr Brian Gibbons

Minister for Health and Social Services

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