

Nid yw ar gael trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Date: Wednesday 11 June 2003
Venue: Committee Room 3, National Assembly for Wales
Title: Strategic and Detailed Forward Work Programme

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Committee to consider a draft strategic forward work programme for the period until December 2004, and a detailed programme for its work until the summer recess.

Background

2. Standing Order 9.9 requires each subject committee to maintain rolling programmes of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The programmes should identify topics or matters within the Committee's remit which are for detailed consideration.

3. In the past committees have split their programmes into a 12 month strategic programme, supplemented by a detailed programme covering three months or so. This ensured that the detailed programmes could be achieved.

4. At the final meeting of the Health and Social Services Committee of the first Assembly, the Committee agreed a legacy paper to pass on to its successor. The paper includes items that, for reasons beyond the Committee's control, it was unable to conclude, and issues that the Committee had identified as needing consideration but for which the timing was not right. It also made suggestions as to possible subjects for a policy review and recommended that the new Committee should revisit some of the reports of the last Committee and review progress that had been made in implementing recommendations. A copy of the legacy paper is at annex 1.

5. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's portfolio follows that of the Assembly Minister. The portfolio, together with Committee's responsibilities under Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8, is set out in the draft strategic programme at annex 2.

Policy Reviews

6. Several topics have been identified as possible topics for policy reviews. It is suggested that the Committee undertake initial public consultation on some of these, and on whether there are any other areas of policy it should review. Consultation would need to be swift, so that the Committee can decide before the summer recess which subjects it will pursue. Preliminary work would be undertaken over the recess on the first topic, with formal public consultation in the autumn. The Committee would then be able to take oral evidence in the new year.

7. During the autumn term the committee could review the Welsh Assembly Government's progress in implementing the recommendations on some of the reviews of the previous Committee.

8. The suggested topics are:

Fluoridation of Water This figured as a possible policy review for the previous committee. There have been recent press reports that the UK Government may be considering an amendment to the Water Bill that would give the NHS power to add fluoride to water.

Health Aspects of GM Foods. The organisation GM Cymru asked the previous Committee to consider undertaking a detailed review of the public health implications of GM foods. Members will be aware that the UK Government launched a national debate on GM foods on 3 June and Members will wish to consider whether the Committee could take evidence effectively in parallel to the national debate.

Neurology Services. This was suggested as a possible topic at the last meeting of the previous Committee in view of concerns about services for people with neurological disease such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Older People's Commissioner The Welsh Assembly Government is proposing to appoint a Commissioner. The Committee could consult and take evidence and advise the Minister on the role and remit of the Commissioner in a similar way to the previous Committee's work on the Children's Commissioner.

Hospital Catering. A healthy diet is widely acknowledged as an important factor in preventing ill health. The Committee could review current guidance and standards of hospital catering to assess the extent to which they meet the dietary needs of patients and promote healthy eating.

Action

9. The Committee is invited to agree that there should be consultation on future policy reviews and to consider which of the above topics should be included as possible subjects. Members are also invited to agree that the consultation should also invite suggestions for other subjects. A list of organisations to be consulted is at annex 3.

10. The forward work programme will be amended in the light of members' comments and then copied to other subject committees for their comments.

Committee Secretariat
June 2003

Health & Social Services Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON ISSUES THAT THE SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE(S) MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN ITS FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Background

1. Under Standing Order 9.9 subject committees are required to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The programme should identify topics or matters within the Committee's remit which are for detailed discussion including urgent matters that may arise from time to time.
2. It has become the practice of the subject committees to draw up their forward work programmes in two parts. The first part is the strategic framework setting out the committee's aims for the coming twelve months. This is supplemented by a detailed programme of work for the coming three to four months.
3. At its meeting on the 26 March 2003 the Health and Social Services Committee agreed that the following items should be commended to its successor as issues it may wish to consider including in its forward work programme..

Strategic Framework

4. The restructuring of the NHS in Wales was implemented from 1 April and monitoring its implementation and effectiveness should be the foundation stone on which the new Committee should develop its programme. There are related issues such as the review supported by Derek Wanless. Mr Wanless is due to report to the Welsh Assembly Government in the late Spring on how resources for health and social care can be translated into reform and improved performance. Another allied strategic issue is the measures to reduce hospital waiting times and allied pressures. The interface between health and social care and joint planning and working between the agencies are key to the effective delivery of both health and social care services. It is recommended that in its first few meetings the Committee should concentrate on these high level strategic issues, although time will also need to be allowed for other items such as consideration of budget proposals and the annual report of the Minister on his/ her meetings with the voluntary sector, as required under paragraph 3.7 of the Voluntary Sector Partnership Scheme.

Policy Review

5. The Committee should consider undertaking a Policy Review. During the summer members may like to identify a topic and agree the terms of reference, so that initial consultation can take place over the summer recess. Topics the Committee could

consider include the health benefits of fluoridation of water, or the health effects of possible future GM Crop plantings in Wales. The former has been on the current Committee's forward work programme as a possible item for detailed consideration. The latter has been requested by the organisation GM Free Cymru, which considers that the Assembly's GM crops free Wales policy needs to be more firmly underpinned by scientific evidence. The provision of neurology services has also been suggested by members.

6. The Culture Committee published its report on the policy review on participation in sport and physical exercise in March, and the Chair of that committee has suggested that the successor committee look at its recommendations on the health benefits of exercise.

7. The current committee has undertaken a number of policy reviews, and the new committee should be advised of the importance of evaluating the outcomes of those reviews. The reviews were:

- ◆ The Children's Commissioner for Wales (1999);
- ◆ The extension of categories of people entitled to free eye tests (2000) ;
- ◆ The Phillips (BSE) Inquiry Report (2001); and
- ◆ Services for children with Special Health Needs (2001 to 2002).

8. Lord Laming's report into the circumstances surrounding the death of Victoria Climbié was published in January, but the current Committee has not had the opportunity of considering his recommendations in the Welsh context. It is recommended that the new Committee should satisfy itself that action is being taken to address the recommendations.

Other Items for Consideration before the Summer Recess

9. **Domiciliary Care.** In November 2002 the current Committee examined the guidance that was being issued to local authorities on charging for domiciliary care. The Committee noted that the guidance would not be introduced until after May 3 2003 and agreed that the new Committee should be kept informed of the working group's progress. On 12 March the Committee considered the draft Domiciliary Care Agencies(Wales) regulations 2003 and associated standards. Members raised a number of concerns they would like to see addressed in finalising the regulations.

10. At its meeting on 26 February, the Committee agreed that a recommendation should be made to the successor Committee to examine the proposals for inspecting Social Services, in particular joint inspections, in the light of the response to the consultation process.

Legislation

11. The new Committee may wish to consider undertaking detailed examination of secondary legislation arising from the Health (Wales) Bill and the Community Care (Delayed Discharges) Bill.

12. In September last year the Committee scrutinised the Government's draft Mental Health bill. The Bill was not included in the Government's programme of legislation published through the Queen's speech. Should the Government revive its proposals for such a Bill the new Committee is recommended to consider carefully whether it is compatible with the mental health strategies in Wales.

13. On 12 March the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Bill was introduced in the House of Commons. The timing of publication may not allow the current Committee to consider the bill before the recess and the new committee may wish to examine at an early stage, so that its views may be fed into the Westminster process through the office of Secretary of State.

Possible Presentation

14. The Network Psychosexual Partnership Cymru provides psychosexual counselling in partnership with the NHS, and the new committee may like to invite the organisation to give a presentation on its work in treating people with sexual problems.

Committee Secretariat
March 2003

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

PART 1 : STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME June 2003 to December 2004

1. Standing order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The Strategic Forward Work Programme sets out the Committee's priorities for the coming 18 months. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering around around three months at a time.

The Committee's Portfolio

2. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's portfolio follows that of the Assembly Minister:
 - All aspects of the National Health Service in Wales, including general practice and primary care, **other than** (i) oversight of the medical professions; (ii) policy on surrogacy, xenotransplantation, embryology and human genetics; and (iii) licensing of medicines. (These matters are not devolved to the National Assembly).
 - Charges for NHS services, including prescription, dental and ophthalmic and optical charges.
 - The provision of services in Wales to the mentally ill.
 - All aspects of public health in Wales, including food safety.
 - The regulation of poisons.
 - The activities of the Food Standards Agency in Wales.
 - Genetically-modified food (**but not the cultivation of genetically-modified crops - this is for the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside**).
 - Oversight of the Audit Commission's activities so far as relating to the National Health Service in Wales.
 - Policy on care in the community.
 - Policy on the provision of social services for children, including the regulation of playgroups, activity centres and childminding.
 - Oversight of the social services activities of local authorities in Wales including the issuing of statutory guidance.
 - Oversight of the Central Council for Social Care in Wales and the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales.
 - Regulation of private care and nursing homes in Wales.
 - Inspection of, and reporting on, the provision of social services by local authorities in Wales (via the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales).
 - Adoption and fostering services in Wales (**but not adoption of children by UK residents abroad**).

- Cross-cutting responsibility for children, health improvement, and older people and carers.

3. The Committee's Responsibilities are set out in Standing Orders :

“9.7. Each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Assembly Secretary is accountable to the Assembly;
- ii. keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- iii. keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

9.8. Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under SO22;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 19;
- iii. perform its functions under Standing Order 21(complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 20; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields.”

The Committee's Aims and Objectives

4. The Committee's aim is to scrutinise the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and to monitor their implementation to ensure that the people of Wales have access to services to improve their health and provide health and social care when it is needed.

5. In reviewing and developing policy the Committee will make recommendations that will lead to high quality, cost effective services that are properly regulated and inspected.

The Committee's Priorities

6. The Committee's strategic focus for the period of the forward work programme will be on the following issues which, together with its responsibilities under Standing Order 9.7 and 9.8, will be its priorities for meetings:

- Monitor implementation of the restructuring of the NHS in Wales, including the associated costs and the effectiveness of the new arrangements in meeting the health care needs of the people of Wales.
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Primary Care Strategy
- Scrutinise the Welsh Assembly Government's performance in reducing waiting times and the incidence of delayed transfer of care.
- Scrutinise the Welsh Assembly Government on the action it is taking in addressing capacity issues (Question of Balance).
- Social Care - Standards and Quality:
 - Care Council and CSIW;
 - Future of Joint Inspections between SSIW and Audit Commission;
 - Child Protection
- Legislation:
 - Primary:
 - Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Bill;
 - Possible Mental Health Bill.
 - Secondary:
 - Arising from the Health (Wales) Act and the Community Care (Delayed Discharges) Act;
 - Domiciliary Care regulations.
- Policy Review:

Possible subjects include:

- fluoridation of water;
 - health aspects of GM foods;
 - provision of neurology services;
 -
 - role and remit of the Commissioner for older people;
 - hospital catering, eg dietary and nutritional value in contributing to recovery and healthy living.
- Scrutiny of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (eg Care Council, Health Professions Wales, Wales Centre for Health).

The Statutory Schemes

The Committee will also take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with the local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the sustainable development scheme.

The Committee will consider a report of the Assembly Minister's meetings with the Voluntary Sector at least once a year in accordance with section 3.7 of the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

PART 2: DETAILED PROGRAMME

June to July 2003

1st Meeting

1. The Minister's Report – *the first of the new series of monthly reports in which the Minister reports to the Committee on the key topical issues within her portfolio and advises the Committee of secondary legislation that the Assembly Government proposes to make.*
2. Business Issues.
 - i. action points that were not cleared before the final meeting in the first Assembly;
 - ii. forward Work programme consideration of the draft forward work programmes;
 - iii. protocol for handling consideration of primary and secondary legislation;
 - iv. the committee's nominations for members to be involved in the public appointment process..
3. Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Bill. *The Government's Bill was introduced to Parliament in March and the first Assembly did not have the opportunity to consider its impact on Wales. The Bill is now in the committee stage in the Commons.*

2nd Meeting

1. Secondary Legislation from the Health Wales Act
2. Scrutiny of Action taken in response to Committee's Report on Phillips Report
3. Consultation on Future of Joint SSIW / Audit Commission Inspections.

3rd Meeting

1. Minister's monthly report
2. Budget – *The Committee will consider the Minister's proposals for 2004-05.*
3. Wanless Review. *In October 2002 the Welsh Assembly Government invited Mr Derek Wanless to look at how resources for health and social care could be translated into reform and improved performance. The Committee will consider his report and the Welsh Assembly government's response to it.*

Other Possible Items

- The report of the Culture Committee's Review of participation in sport and physical exercise – consideration of recommendations on health benefits.
- The health aspects of the Equality of Opportunity Committee's report on Services for Gypsies and Travellers.

Organisations for Consultation

Age Concern Cymru
Alzheimer's Society
Anglesey Local Health Board
ASBAH in Wales
ASH in Wales
Association of Directors of Social Services Wales
Association of Welsh Community Health Councils (CHC)
Audit Commission in Wales
AWEMA
Barnardos
British Dental Association, Wales
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council *
Blaenau Gwent Local Health Board
British Medical Association Wales
Brecknock & Radnor CHC
Bridgend CHC
Bridgend County Borough Council *
Bridgend Local Health Board
British Fluoridation Society
British Medical Association
Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust
Caerphilly County Borough Council *
Caerphilly Local Health Board
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust
Cardiff CHC
Cardiff City and County Council *
Cardiff Local Health Board
Care and Repair Cymru
Care for Wales Public Policy
Care Forum Wales
Carers National Association in Wales
Carmarthen/Dinefwr CHC
Carmarthenshire County Council *
Carmarthenshire Local Health Board
Carmarthenshire Local Health Board
Carmarthenshire NHS Trust

Centre for Health Leadership, Wales
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust
Ceredigion CHC

Ceredigion County Council *

Ceredigion Local Health Board

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

Chartered Institute of Housing

Children's Commissioner for Wales

Children in Wales

City and County of Swansea *

Clwyd CHC

Consumers' Association

Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust

Conwy County Borough Council *

Conwy East CHC

Conwy Local Health Board

Conwy West CHC

Denbighshire County Council *

Denbighshire Local Health Board

Disability Rights Commission

Disability Wales

Equal Opportunities Commission

Flintshire County Council *

Flintshire Local Health Board

Foods Standards Agency

General Dental Council

GM Free Cymru

Gogledd Gwynedd CHC

Gwent CHC

Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust

Gwynedd County Council *

Gwynedd Local Health Board

Health Commission Wales

Help the Aged Cymru

Isle of Anglesey County Council *

Llanelli/Dinefwr CHC

Medical Research Council

Meirionnydd CHC

Mencap Cymru

Merthyr and Cynon Valley CHC

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council *

Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Board

Mind Cymru

Monmouthshire County Council *

Monmouthshire Local Health Board

Montgomery CHC

National Association for Patient Participation

National Association of Hospital and Community Friends

National Audit Office, Wales

National Autistic society Wales

National Patient Safety Agency

National Pure Water Association

National Old Age Pensioners' Association of Wales

National Schizophrenia Fellowship Cymru

NCH Cymru

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council *

Neath Port Talbot Local Health Board

Neath & Port Talbot CHC

Newport City Council *

Newport Local Health Board

North East Wales NHS Trust

North Glamorgan NHS Trust

North West Wales NHS Trust

Parkinson's disease Society

Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust

Pembrokeshire CHC

Pembrokeshire County Council *

Pembrokeshire Local Health Board

Pontypridd & Rhondda CHC

Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust

Powys County Council *

Powys Local Health Board

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council *

Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Health Board

RNIB Cymru

RNID Cymru

Royal College of Nursing Wales

Royal College of Physicians, Wales Region North

Royal College of Physicians, Wales Region South
Royal College of Surgeons, Welsh Office
Scope Cwmpas Cymru
SCOVO
Shelter Cymru
Stroke Association
Swansea CHC
Swansea Local Health Board
Swansea NHS Trust
The Commission for Racial Equality
Torfaen County Borough Council *
Torfaen Local Health Board
Unison Cymru / Wales
Vale of Glamorgan CHC
Vale of Glamorgan Council *
Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board
Velindre NHS Trust
Vellindre NHS Trust
Wales Association of County Voluntry Action
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Wales Pensioners
Wales TUC Cymru
Water UK
Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Welsh Asian Council
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Federation of Housing Associations
Welsh NHS Confederation
Welsh Women's Aid
Wrexham County Borough Council *
Wrexham Local Health Board
Ynys Mon CHC

* addressed to Directors of Social Services and Directors of Housing