

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Committee priorities 2017–18

The Committee has identified the following issues which it will look to prioritise over the coming 12 months. Alongside these, the Committee will consider legislation referred to it, as well as shorter pieces of topical work.

The Committee has agreed to monitor the ongoing work of the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care in Wales. The Review's work and findings will be taken into account when the Committee makes decisions about the work it will undertake.

The information provided under each heading is intended to provide an early indication of the matters that the Committee may wish to consider, however the detailed terms of reference for this work are yet to be agreed.

This document sets out the work that the Committee intends to carry out over the course of the following year. It indicates the current intentions of the Committee at the time of publishing, however it is subject to change.

Ongoing work

The Committee will continue taking evidence on its **inquiry into the use of anti-psychotic medication in care homes** and has launched an **inquiry into the physical activity of children and young people**. It will also publish the reports of its **inquiry into primary care** and its **inquiry into loneliness and isolation**.

1. Suicide prevention

The Committee's recent in-depth look at the issue of loneliness and isolation, and the potential for it to have a significant impact on physical and mental health, has highlighted suicide as a major area of concern. Suicide prevention and the Welsh



Government's 'Talk to Me 2' suicide and self-harm prevention strategy 2015–2020 are of specific interest.

2. ICT Infrastructure

The ICT infrastructure across the health boards and NHS trusts in Wales is an issue that has been raised with the Committee on a number of occasions, particularly as part of the Committee's inquiry into primary care clusters. Of specific interest is the potential for more integrated technology and the use of shared data, improving the patient experience, and identifying the barriers in place which may be preventing efficiency and modernisation. It could also include issues relevant to integration across health and social care.

3. Medical Performers List

All doctors (including GP Trainees and GP Induction and Refresher doctors) wishing to practice in NHS primary care in Wales must be included on the Medical Performers List (MPL) of a Welsh Health Board. The Committee's inquiry into medical recruitment highlighted issues with the MPL, specifically regarding doctors who return to Wales to practice and regarding the equivalence of training. This is likely to be short inquiry.

4. Rural health / areas with sparse health facilities

The Committee is aware of a growing issue affecting a number of remote and rural areas throughout Wales where the challenges of improving health and care services can be at their most. The Committee will take into account the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care Wales' recommendations as relevant to this issue before deciding its own focus.

5. Post-legislative scrutiny

There are a number of pieces of primary legislation that were made in the Third and Fourth Assemblies which would be appropriate for the Committee to re-visit. Over the next 12 months, the Committee will continue to consider the possibilities and options for undertaking post-legislative scrutiny.

6. General and financial scrutiny

The Committee believes that strategic and regular scrutiny of the Welsh Government and relevant statutory bodies is an important part of its role. During the remainder of this Assembly, the Committee will invite the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being



and Sport and the Minister for Social Services and Public Health, in addition to Sport Wales, Public Health Wales and health boards for general scrutiny sessions as needed.

Assembly Committees will potentially be taking on a different role in their scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget, in the context of Wales' new devolved tax and borrowing powers under the Wales Act 2014 and the increasing complexity of the Welsh Government's funding arrangements. This Committee will specifically be seeking the input of health boards and local authorities in advance of its scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary and Minister later in 2017.

