

**Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar:
Implementing the Social Services (Wales) Bill - organisation, support and accountability**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 6th June 2013

Venue: Ballroom, Hilton Cardiff, Kingsway, Cardiff CF10 3HH

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Mike Hedges AM, Member, Cross Party Group on Older People and Ageing, National Assembly for Wales
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Social services in Wales - the context for change**
An outline of the present structures and plans for change for social services in Wales.
Tim Spencer-Lane, Lawyer, Public Law Team, Law Commission
- 9.15 - 10.10 **Restructuring the organisation of care services**
What will be the impact of integration of adult and child social services? How can it be ensured that specific needs of adults and children remain effectively addressed under the new proposed structure? What services are likely to attract increased demand, following the new emphasis on early intervention? What support needs to be provided to local authorities to increase their capacity given the changes to provision and their duty to provide social services? What will be the impact of the duty on local authorities to appoint a 'competent' Director of Social Services, and will the ability to share Directors affect local accountability? Will plans for a National Adoption Agency for Wales achieve the aim of improving the efficiency of the adoption process? What will be the likely impact of the reduction in the number of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and their merging with adult protection boards? How should the new National Independent Safeguarding Board interact with local safeguarding boards to improve consistency of practice across Wales?
Vivienne Laing, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, NSPCC Cymru/Wales
Carol Shillabeer, Nurse Director, Powys Teaching Health Board
Philip Evans, Director of Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council and President, Association of Directors for Social Services Cymru
Keith Bowen, Director, Carers Wales and Chair, Wales Carers Alliance
Questions and comments from the floor with **Tim Spencer-Lane**, Lawyer, Public Law Team, Law Commission
- 10.10 - 10.15 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Mike Hedges AM, Member, Cross Party Group on Older People and Ageing, National Assembly for Wales
- 10.15 - 10.45 Coffee
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Mike Hedges AM, Member, Cross Party Group on Older People and Ageing, National Assembly for Wales
- 10.50 - 11.00 **'Missing Voices' - improving care services for children**
Keith Towler, Children's Commissioner for Wales
- 11.00 - 11.10 **'Voice, choice and control' for older people**
Sarah Rochira, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- 11.20 - 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor with **Keith Towler**, Children's Commissioner for Wales and **Sarah Rochira**, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- 11.25 - 11.40 **Regulating social work standards in Wales**
Peter Tyndall, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 11.55 **Implementing the Social Services Bill**
Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Social Services, Welsh Government
- 11.55 - 12.55 **Changes to assessment and the service-user experience**
What will be the impact of introducing the right for individuals to access the assessment of their needs, and how can service-user needs be more effectively met within social services? How can organisations - local authorities, private care organisations and third sector - work more effectively together in improving access to information, advice and assistance for service-users? Will the new prescribed assessments succeed in making services more equitable across local authorities? How can the introduction of portability in prescribed assessments balance the need for high standards whilst improving overall service-user experience? What is the likely impact of extending services for which people have a right to use direct payments, and how can support be effectively directed? What specific measures could be taken to strengthen the complaints procedure and how can the role of the Ombudsman be further developed? How should the responsibility of social workers be expanded; for example, being granted powers to enter homes where they suspect abuse?
Elisabeth Laing QC, Barrister, 11KBW
Robin Moulster, Manager, British Association of Social Workers (BASW) Cymru
Martyn Palfreman, Head of Social Services Directorate, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
Joseph Carter, Acting Director, MS Society Cymru
Adrian Roper, CEO, Cartrefi Cymru
Mike Kemp, Vice Chair, Care Forum Wales
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Mike Hedges AM, Member, Cross Party Group on Older People and Ageing, National Assembly for Wales
Jonny Roberts, Senior Producer, Policy Forum for Wales